

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO MR. KEN DAVID, VETERAN SERVICE OFFICER FOR LIMESTONE COUNTY

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a distinguished citizen and soldier on the occasion of his retirement from the post of Veteran Service Officer for Limestone County, in my district.

Ken David served his country honorably, first in Vietnam, and later in the Persian Gulf during Operation Desert Storm. For the past ten years, he has been invaluable in assisting other veterans of Limestone County with a wide range of needs and requests.

Ken is a highly motivated and community oriented individual. Several years ago, he founded the Limestone County Veterans Museum and Archives. Ken organized and guided a committee of dedicated volunteers, and worked tirelessly himself, to renovate the historic depot in Athens, Alabama, where many Limestone County veterans disembarked for a war in years past. The museum is now a resource for veterans, their families, school groups, and the public, where they can learn about the tremendous sacrifice of North Alabama residents who proudly served their country in wartime during the 20th Century.

I want to thank Ken today for his immeasurable contribution of time, energy, and enthusiasm on behalf of his fellow veterans and neighbors. I also want to congratulate Ken and his family, and wish him the best during his well-deserved rest in retirement.

IN HONOR OF VONETTA FLOWERS, RECIPIENT OF AN OLYMPIC GOLD MEDAL

HON. EARL F. HILLIARD

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Vonetta Flowers, a gold medalist in the women's bobsled event during the nineteenth Winter Olympiad in Park City Utah. On Tuesday, February 19, 2002, Ms. Flowers became the first African American to win a Winter Olympic Gold Medal.

Vonetta's journey to Olympic triumph is one that is analogous to that of many other famous tract stars who have come before her. While competing at the 2000 Olympic track and field trials in the long jump event, she saw a flyer for the bobsled team. As a lark she decided to try out and quickly mastered the six-event test that includes sprinting, jumping, and throwing a shot thus earning her a trial on the Olympic bobsled track. With only 2 weeks of training on how to push a bobsled, Vonetta and her teammate broke the world start record in Oc-

tober 2000. Later that season the team won four World medals and finished the year ranked third in the world.

A 4-year letter winner at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), Ms. Flowers is a seven time NCAA All American. During her college career she competed in long jump, triple jump, 100 meters, 200 meters and relay teams. She competed in the 2000 Olympic trials in long jump, where she finished 12th. She also won a Gold Medal at the 1994 Olympic festival in the long jump. Currently, Vonetta is an assistant track coach at UAB.

A native of Birmingham, AL, Vonetta attended Jackson-Olin High School where she was an All-State basketball player and member of the Birmingham Striders Track Club. She is married to Mr. Johnny Mack Flowers and is the daughter of Jimmie and Barbara Jeffrey.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Vonetta Flowers for her monumental achievement and superior athletic performance.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of the USA for their prestigious service. The Royal College was created in 1984 and is located in Detroit, MI.

The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, an international organization, longs to provide continuing medical education to physicians and surgeons around the world. The Royal College campuses spread around the globe in Canada, England, Ireland, Australia, and South Africa. The College prides itself on its commitment to the science and arts of medicine and surgery. Further, the College is supported by private organizations, however it receives its charters from individual governments.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the renowned organization, the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons as they celebrate their 20 years of service.

A TRIBUTE TO HADASSAH ON THEIR 90TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invited my colleagues to join me in commending and paying

tribute to Hadassah—the Women's Zionist Organization of America, on the occasion of its 90th Anniversary. This extraordinary organization, founded in February 1912 by Henrietta Szold, has worked throughout its nine decades to ensure the unity of the Jewish people.

Hadassah's American activities cover the map from Anchorage, Alaska, to San Juan, Puerto Rico, and from Honolulu, Hawaii, to Bangor, Maine. In more than 800 communities around the United States, Hadassah volunteers undertake programs and activities that change and improve people's lives. These include the "Check it Out" breast cancer detection and awareness campaign and sponsoring Jewish family programs across the country. Members of Hadassah are also on the forefront of important public policy debates on a diverse range of issues including, women's health, church-state separation, and U.S.-Israel relations.

Mr. Speaker, the wonderful work of Hadassah does not stop at our nation's borders. The organization's greatest achievement is its network of world-renowned medical and educational institutions in Israel. The Hadassah Medical Organization in Jerusalem provides the highest quality of health care to more than 600,000 people a year. Since 1984, the Hadassah Medical Organization has also been involved in global outreach programs to other countries, particularly those in Africa. Included in these initiatives are new treatments for eye diseases, AIDS education, post-natal care and public health.

Numbering more than 300,000 throughout the United States, the devoted membership of Hadassah embodies the spirit of volunteerism and community service. These women are our mothers, daughters, sisters, wives and aunts.

Mr. Speaker, I invite our colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Hadassah—this outstanding community service organization—and its many dedicated members, who have made outstanding contributions to our nation and to peoples throughout the world over the past 90 years.

DEFENSE BUDGET STATEMENT

HON. CYNTHIA A. MCKINNEY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, February 6th, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld testified before the House Armed Services Committee and asked for a record increase in defense spending. He pointed to the brave new world post-September 11th as justification for the largest hike in defense spending in 20 years. Sadly, Secretary Rumsfeld thinks that the brave new world of post-September gives us amnesia about 9/11 and the events before 9/11. He also mistakenly believes that all of his destabilizing proposals can be justified as a reasoned response to 9/11. An incredibly, both

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

the Vice President and the President placed calls to TOM DASCHLE asking that the fog of ignorance around the events prior to and the day of 9/11 not be lifted.

The fact, however, is that September 11 was not a failure of our nation's defenses. Rather, September 11 was a colossal intelligence failure—a failure to act on timely and accurate warnings predicting massive terrorist attacks against our nation. The LA Times and other leading press agencies have identified some of these missed warnings. And this was not the first time that our intelligence agencies have let us down. The same failure to act on critical warnings happened with respect to the terror attacks against our embassies in Africa.

Even the CIA, the FBI and other senior Capitol Hill figures all now agree that there were serious lapses in the handling of perishable and highly significant warnings preceding the September 11th attacks. But instead of examining what went wrong with respect to these warnings and then trying to prevent it from ever happening again, President Bush and Vice President CHENEY now seek to actually prevent the Congress from investigating these and other events surrounding September 11th. Indeed, Senator RICHARD SHELBY, a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee told CNN: "It was a real massive failure . . . In my judgment too many bureaucratic failures, not enough coordination between the Agencies." The active efforts to prevent a Congressional investigation into the events surrounding September 11 not only violate the principles of good government but are an affront to the memories of all those who perished in the September 11 attacks. But sadly, the Administration now chooses to direct us on a path of war while refusing to allow us to know how we got there.

I have been asked by my constituents to explain to them why and how September 11 happened. Indeed, the whole world community continues to search for answers to those exact questions. That cannot be done if the Executive Branch will not cooperate with the Legislative Branch in answering important questions about what was known before, during, and after the tragedies in New York and Pennsylvania and Washington, DC. Why doesn't the Executive Branch want us to know answers to these questions? Is there something that they don't want the American public to know?

Instead of working with the Congress to search for answers to these questions the Administration has now become obsessed with finding ways to expand the U.S. military budget. The White House is now using our new War Against Terror as a means of siphoning public attention away from the events surrounding September 11th in order to generate widespread support for the largest increase in defense spending in a generation. The Administration has even identified a dubious "axis of evil" to further justify this increased spending.

The President has requested an increase of \$48.1 billion in defense spending. Sadly, many commenters have already pointed out that his father stands to personally gain immense profits from the President's proposals because of the former President's relationship with The Carlyle Group, a leading defense conglomerate. One particular defense contract, for the development and purchase of a mobile howitzer, the Crusader, exists with the Carlyle Group. Though the company has received millions for this, the Crusader is too hefty to

transport, has not yet reached its production phase despite years of engineering and re-engineering, and is far from fulfilling its purpose or need.

In his testimony before the Congress Wednesday, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld said that America can afford this increase just fine. This comes after defense spending snared a whopping 62 percent of all new spending for the year 2002. This accounting is specious, as Rumsfeld himself noted on the eve of September 11th, that "according to some estimates we cannot track \$2.3 trillion in transactions." Increased spending should occur under no circumstances without increased financial accountability. Does Arthur Anderson keep the Pentagon's books?

Rumsfeld's trick of throwing bones to would-be critics in the form of pay raises for the troops should not obscure the fact that the bulk of this budget hike goes not for pay raises, but for expensive gadgets such as missile defense, three new, separate fighter planes and space-based lasers. Of the \$48.1 billion requested in more funding, less than 5 percent of that increase is for soldier pay raises. And let us not forget that the President's first act in this war on terrorism was to waive the high-deployment overtime pay for our troops who are on the front line of this war.

I might remind Mr. President that we still have veterans from the Vietnam war suffering from the ill effects of Agent Orange, we still have Vietnam veterans impoverished and sleeping on the streets of our Nation's Capital, we still have veterans from the Gulf War suffering the ill effects of Gulf War syndrome and we still have service men and women in our armed forces living on food stamps and residing in poor housing. How in good conscience can the Secretary of Defense come before this Committee and ask for yet more money for aircraft, ships and missiles and not adequately address these critical issues concerning the personal welfare of our veterans and serving men and women?

Sadly, however, at the same time that the President proposes the largest defense spending hike in 20 years, his budget also proposes to cut funds for programs that bridge the digital divide, reducing funds for highway construction and urban development and cutting funding for the EPA by \$300 million. And despite the down-turned economic situation, the President has also proposed to cut back on job training, assistance for low income home heating, and rural housing and utility improvements. Moreover, funds to cleanup the Savannah River Site nuclear weapons complex are sliced, and abroad, international food aid and peacekeeping funds are also shrunk.

At \$379.3 billion, the President's proposal will not tell us how just a few months ago during the trial of suspects charged with initially bombing the World Trade Center in 1993, a suspect told U.S. officials that bin Laden's group was trying to make war on the United States and in particular would bomb an embassy, yet we did nothing and lost hundreds of lives in Nairobi and Dar Es Salaam. Nor will this budget explain the Mossad warning of a major terrorist force of 200 individuals entering the U.S., which apparently again fell on deaf ears. What of the supposed warning to German police by an Iranian in Hamburg of an impending attack on the U.S. using hijacked planes? And nor will this budget illuminate for

us who performed the unusual stock trades on the Friday and Monday before September 11th, but has since decided not to pick up the tidy profit that was made. The U.S. Government is now being sued by survivors of the African embassy blasts because it has become clear that the United States had ample warning but chose to do nothing rather than prevent the loss of life. Given the prior warnings, insider stock trades, and convoluted financial interrelationships, September 11th represents yet another wasted chance to save innocent lives.

The most shocking aspect of the President's request involves the New Defense Strategy to be implemented now. Secretary Rumsfeld testified that a major role now for the U.S. military will be to occupy an opponent's capital and replace his regime. In as much as the Secretary has identified some 60 countries, including our own, that host terror cells, and publicly stated his intention to "drain the swamp," we can only surmise that the U.S. military is now in the business of taking over capitals around the world and replacing regimes . . . starting with Washington, DC.

IN MEMORY OF LOWELL F. RUPP

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay homage to a man of my district, Lowell F. Rupp, who passed from this life on Monday, January 7, 2002 at the youthful age of 73. Mr. Rupp was a long-time and much loved civic and business leader in Fulton County, Ohio.

Born on a family farm still operational in Fulton County, Mr. Rupp eventually purchased the farm from his father. He produced corn, soybeans, and wheat, selling the seed as well. Even though I came to know him through politics, for me the picture of Mr. Rupp remains with the land, for he was a farmer in his very soul.

Entering German Township politics, he "sought elective office out of a love for people and a desire to make a difference in their lives." That, indeed, he did. After serving for ten years as a German Township Trustee, Mr. Rupp was elected a Fulton County Commissioner. He served in that position for sixteen years, retiring at the end of his final term in 1994. His tenure as commissioner brought a great deal to the residents of Fulton County: he most assuredly did make a difference in their lives, improving their livelihoods, bringing positive progress to the county and always moving forward. Under his stewardship, the Fulton County Courthouse Plaza, a new county health department building and senior centers in four regions of the county were established. He helped to obtain expansion for water lines into the county and improvements to its fairgrounds.

Those who worked with Mr. Rupp in pursuit of projects benefiting the county—myself included—found him to be a most able and honorable man. One of his colleagues describes him as a "rock-ribbed Republican" who never let partisanship get in the way of doing the best job he could for the public good and noted, "He was a gentleman to work with. We were both opinionated and agreed to disagree." Mr. Rupp practiced a style of politics

from which all could take a lesson, and though driven to achieve what he thought was right, still understood the art of compromise.

A man of great yet quiet faith who lived his beliefs, Mr. Rupp was a lifelong member of the Evangelical Mennonite Church. He was also a member of Gideons International and the Archbold Rotary.

Lowell Rupp and his wife Ardith celebrated nearly 53 years of marriage together. As deeply as he surely loved his family, words can do little to assuage the grief felt now by Mrs. Rupp, their children Beverly, Pamela, Bruce, Larry, and Leslie, sister, brother, and grandchildren. May the tangible legacy he leaves behind in what his public service gave to his community help them as they find their way now. Lowell Rupp's memory, his talent, his energy, and his service are the gifts he has left to his family, and to us. While we are saddened at his passing, we are grateful for his life.

TRIBUTE TO THE WOMEN'S AUXILIARY OF THE RIVERSIDE VETERANS, INC.

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to take this opportunity to salute the Women's Auxiliary of the Riverside Veterans, Inc., from my hometown of Paterson, NJ. On Sunday, October 21, 2001 the post celebrated a proud moment, its 50th Anniversary.

Having spent my formative years in the Riverside section of Paterson, exercising my ability to honor this group in the permanent record of the greatest democracy ever known, is all the more special.

After our Nation's triumph in the Second World War, our heroes from the Riverside section of Paterson returned home and decided to form, under the guiding hand of founder Tony Tirri, the Riverside Veterans Inc., in 1946. Many of these brave men lived and fought together in the same combat units, forging unbreakable bonds that served as the base of this organization.

Mr. Speaker, everyone in this chamber knows it was the collective effort and resolve of our entire country that carried us to decisive victory in 1945. The Riverside Veterans were more than cognizant of this fact, as they took the initiative in rewarding the women who served their country on the homefront. In 1951, the decision was made to form a women's auxiliary.

Under the leadership of the first year officers—President Mary DeNova, Vice President Addie Pacilio, Secretary Dorothy Tirri, Treasurer Dorothy Malizia, Chaplain Pearl Plavan, Service Officer Rosa Palotta, Mistress-At-Arms Connie Barone, and Executive Board members Angie Tateo, Betty Natoli, Julie Cosgrove, and Delma Cuccinello—the highest standards of charity, family values, and community awareness were set for the Women's Auxiliary's of the Riverside Veterans, Inc.

As a lifelong resident and former Mayor of Paterson, I cannot think of another organization that better embodies its motto, "The Post That Cares," than the Riverside Veterans Auxiliary. My revered predecessor in Congress,

the Hon. Robert A. Roe, succinctly said it best stating. "It would be difficult indeed to find a more dedicated or hard working group of women than the auxiliary of the Riverside Veterans."

I would like to recognize the exceptional current leadership of this venerable institution: President Delma Cuccinello, whose husband Louis is the Commander of Riverside Veterans Inc., Vice President Janet Rigamonti, Secretary Catherine Spina, Treasurer Ruth Gallo, Chaplain Jean Carini, Service Officer Irma Cantilla, Mistress-At-Arms Ann Cirasuolo and Executive Board members Clover Glloriande, Bette Natoli, Dolly Gorga, Ida Ponte, and Holly Hintzen. These current leaders have carried on the noble precedents set by the founding members.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, the City of Paterson, veterans across the nation, and me in recognizing the outstanding and invaluable service of the Women's Auxiliary of the Riverside Veterans Inc.

TRIBUTE TO 125 YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE BY THE FITCHBURG SPORTSMEN'S CLUB

HON. JOHN W. OLVER

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the valuable service of the Fitchburg Sportsmen's Club of Fitchburg, Massachusetts, located in north Worcester County at the eastern end of my district. On March 4, 2002, the Fitchburg Sportsmen's Club will hold its 125th annual banquet celebrating a long and impressive record of serving the local community.

The Fitchburg Sportsmen's Club first met in the late 19th century to organize sportsmen, hold competitions and promote responsible gun ownership. Since then, the Club has continued these activities, and its members have used the Club as a platform to discuss important issues affecting gun owners and the public. There is evidence that the Club originated for the purpose of supporting laws to preserve and protect fish and game, thereby helping to maintain the environmental integrity of the Commonwealth. The Club has also worked with local law enforcement and community leaders to promote gun safety, provide instruction for gun owners, and promote responsible gun etiquette.

Through its varied activities, the Sportsmen's Club has proven to be an influential and beneficial voice in the city of Fitchburg. As the Club reflects on its past accomplishments, I encourage its members to continue their role as instructors and community organizers.

TRIBUTE TO CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL OF HUNTSVILLE, AL

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Catholic High School in Huntsville, AL, as it kicks off its annual "Community Serv-

ice Day." Today, Catholic High seniors will go out into the community to volunteer their time and hard work throughout Huntsville.

Part of Catholic High School's mission statement is "to serve the families of our Catholic parishes and the wider community." They pledge to guide students into loving service of others through activities such as "Community Service Day." Catholic High School has a student faith development initiative that includes giving back to their community through service and outreach, and becoming more aware of the needs of others. Every year, students are required to spend 100 hours volunteering in the Community.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend Catholic High School and each member of its senior class for their strong commitment to serving others. This kind of outreach is extremely beneficial to the Huntsville community as well as to each student as they grow and learn about what it means to reach out to those who are in need. I wish them the best and sincerely thank them as they go out today to serve our community.

A TRIBUTE TO AN AMERICAN HERO—REAR ADMIRAL HERSCHEL GOLDBERG

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today and pay tribute to a dear friend and true American patriot, Rear Admiral Herschel Goldberg, who recently passed away at his San Mateo home.

Rear Admiral Goldberg was born in Highland, Kansas and raised in St. Joseph, Missouri before graduating from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1935. After a year at the Navy Finance and Supply School, Rear Admiral Goldberg was transferred to the U.S. Navy supply corps. During World War II he was stationed in the South Pacific. He served as the Supply Officer of the Navy bases at Bora Bora and Guadalcanal before being promoted to Commanding Officer of the Naval Supply Depot in Noumea, New Caledonia. Mr. Speaker, it was at Noumea, where Rear Admiral Goldberg did what he described as the, "most soul satisfying thing I've done in my entire career." By racially integrating his 2,000 enlisted men work force, Rear Admiral Goldberg advanced the cause of racial equality.

After the war, Rear Admiral Goldberg received his MBA from Harvard Business School and then served as Logistics Planning Officer on General Eisenhower's NATO staff. After being promoted to Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy Supply Corps, he was appointed by President Lyndon Johnson to Chief of the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts and Paymaster General of the Navy. In 1966 he became the first commander to be officially named Chief of Supply Corps, where he played a dominate role in the continued development of a strong, centrally coordinated and fully integrated supply system that was essential for the maintenance and preservation of the United States as a global naval power. For his extraordinary service to the Navy Rear Admiral Goldberg was awarded both the Distinguished Service Medal and the Legion of Merit.

I had the pleasure on having Rear Admiral Goldberg serve on my Service Academy Nominations board since I was elected to Congress in 1980. I urge all my colleagues to join me in wishing Rear Admiral Goldberg the traditional naval parting for a fallen naval officer, farewell and following seas.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. DONALD
"MAC" McLAUGHLIN

HON. JOEL HEFLEY

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Donald "Mac" McLaughlin. After 61 years of service to his country, Mr. McLaughlin is retiring.

He began his career in 1940 as a cadre in the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Carson in Colorado Springs. He went on to become a member of the 82nd Airborne Division and a parachute jumper for the regimented combat team. After a combat jump in Holland in 1943 and the end of World War II in 1945, he returned home. Mr. McLaughlin separated from the Army that year and began his service with the Air Force in food services.

Twenty-six years later, Mr. McLaughlin retired from active duty as a chief master sergeant, but his service to our Nation did not end there. He was hired by the Air Force Academy athletic department as a concessions manager where he devoted many long hours to ensure that Falcon Stadium and its patrons were accommodated.

This man knows the true meaning of service to his country and I am proud to have him as a constituent. I congratulate him on his long and rewarding career and wish him well as he enters retirement.

IN HONOR OF THE LOWER EAST
SIDE PEOPLE'S FEDERAL CREDIT
UNION

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Lower East Side People's Federal Credit Union (LESPFCU) on the occasion of the grand opening of its Avenue C ATM.

Since 1986, the Lower East Side People's Federal Credit Union has served the financial needs of low-income neighborhood residents who are not served by commercial banks. For over 15 years, since the closing of the last commercial bank in the Lower East Side community, the credit union has maintained its goal of stimulating the economic and community development of the neighborhood by providing a safe, sound, and democratic alternative to traditional banks. Today, nearly 4,000 area residents and employees are members of the credit union. Including the extended family of credit union members who benefit from its services, the credit union serves close to 10,000 Lower East Side community members. As of December 2001, LESPFCU has made over \$8 million in loans

to 3,488 members of the community, enabling them to realize their dreams of home ownership, starting a small business, or furthering their education.

The Lower East Side People's Federal Credit Union has now opened its second ATM location on Avenue C between 8th and 9th Streets. This new ATM makes the credit union the first financial institution to establish a presence on Avenue C since the 1960s. The opening of the ATM marks two important developments for the Lower East Side: first, it is the beginning of the credit union's expansion plan, which will allow it to continue to serve the growing financial needs of the community; secondly, it demonstrates a revitalized interest and dedication to the economic well-being of the Lower East Side. These developments are sure to contribute to a revitalized community and to benefit the long-term recovery of New York City.

I would like to congratulate those whose hard work has contributed to the opening of the new ATM: the dedicated staff and leadership of the Lower East Side People's Federal Credit Union, the Lower East Side People's Mutual Housing Association, New York City Councilwoman Margarita Lopez, the Co-op Network, Citibank, HSBC, and JP Morgan Chase.

HONORING STAFF SERGEANT
BRANDON PEARCE

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Staff Sergeant Brandon R. Pearce on the occasion of him being named the United States Air Force's Airman of the Year. Mr. Pearce is an Aircraft Hydraulic Systems Journeyman assigned to the 146th Maintenance Squadron, 146th Logistics Group, 146th Airlift Wing, Channel Islands Air National Guard Station, California. In order to achieve this high honor, Mr. Pearce competed against more than 6,000 airmen in California with the national competition including members from throughout the United States and territories.

Staff Sergeant Pearce graduated from Mariposa High School in 1988 and enlisted in the Air Force. While on active duty, Staff Sergeant Pearce received several Crew Chief of the Month awards and was assigned to his own C-141 aircraft. He participated in Operation Just Cause in Panama, the Persian Gulf war as well as many other operational missions. Staff Sergeant Pearce has also received other military awards, such as the Air Force Longevity Service Award Ribbon and the Air Force Training Ribbon. Upon completion of his 4-year enlistment, he became a full time student which earned him an Associate of Arts degree in History in 1993, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1995. In addition to his two degrees, he also obtained a Teaching Credential and devoted 3 years helping to educate and mentor the youth of Ventura and Mariposa Counties.

After completing his education, in 1998, Staff Sergeant Pearce rejoined the Air Force in the California Air National Guard as an Aircraft Hydraulic Systems Technician with the

146th Airlift Wing. Some of his responsibilities include maintenance of all hydraulic components of the wing's 12 C-130Es, including flight controls, brakes, and landing gear. In addition to his busy schedule at the California Air National Guard, he and his wife, Jackie, still find time to take active roles in their church's community outreach program assisting families in need and the homeless.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Staff Sergeant Brandon Pearce on his achievement of being named the United States Air Force's Airman of the Year. Not only is he a fine example in the service to his country, but also to his community. His success reflects credit upon himself, the Air Force and our Nation. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Staff Sergeant Brandon Pearce being named Airman of the Year and wish him many more years of continued success.

TRIBUTE TO DEREK PARRA

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I ask for unanimous consent to revise and extend my remarks.

I rise today to pay tribute to one of America's new Olympic heroes. Like all Americans, I watched all of our athletes competing in the 2002 games with great pride. We love the Olympics. We love the international spirit, the thrill of competition, the joys of victory and stories of struggle. The athletes capture our imaginations and our hearts.

I watched one athlete with particular pride, speed skater Derek Parra, winner of the silver medal in the 5,000-meter skate and the gold in the 1,500-meter skate.

You see, Derek Parra is from my district. He went to school with my son, Joe Baca, Jr., and I attended church with Derek's father, Gilbert Parra, at St. Catherine's in Rialto, California.

Derek Parra is an American hero. One of eight Olympians chosen by fellow teammates to carry the American flag into the opening ceremonies, Derek accepted the honor even though his first race was the next day. While most athletes spend the night before a race resting, Derek jeopardized his medal chances to carry Old Glory.

On February 9, 2002, Derek's family and friends gathered on Saturday at Graziano's pizza restaurant in Colton to watch the San Bernardino native dazzle the world. Derek unexpectedly broke the world record in the 5,000-meter speed skating race with a time of 6 minutes and 17.98 seconds, beating his own best time by 15 seconds. Derek won the silver medal when the Dutch skater edged out Derek's record-breaking time.

Derek's record breaking performance and silver medal were a bit of a surprise even to the people who knew him best, because the 5,000-meter was not his best race. Friends and family eagerly awaited his best event, the 1,500-meter race on February 19th.

Ten days later on February 19, 2002, fifty of Derek's closest relatives and friends jammed a tiny San Bernardino living room to watch Derek break another world record this time in the 1,500-meter speed skating race with a

time of 1 minute and 43.95 seconds. This record held and Derek won Olympic gold.

Derek's silver and gold medals surprised the world. At 5 feet 3½ inches, Derek is a small man in a tall man's sport. He is known by his Nordic competitors as "the little man with the big strokes."

Derek grew up on the West Side of San Bernardino with his brother and single father. He attended Roosevelt elementary and Eisenhower high school. He first learned to skate at the stardust roller rink in Highland where he became an avid inline skater.

As a Mexican-American youth growing up in southern California, Derek did not set foot on ice until he was 17 years old. Derek would be 26 years old before he would switch from inline skating to ice skating in 1996 in order to shoot for Olympic gold.

Derek's road to the Olympics has not been easy. He and his wife Tiffany have struggled to make ends meet raising a baby girl, Mia Elizabeth, while Derek trained for the Olympics. Unlike most skaters who train fulltime, Derek works part-time at a Home Depot to help support his family. Derek has doggedly pursued his dream against all odds.

When people said that he could not do it, he said that he could, and he did it. Derek proved that a determined kid from a working class family in Southern California could grow up to be a champion in a sport dominated by Northern Europeans.

We do not have many Winter Olympians in San Bernardino. The beauty of the Olympic games is the opportunity they allow all of us to experience the glory and triumph through our athletes. We feel a connection with them. As the first Mexican-American to ever appear in the winter games let alone win a medal, Derek expanded the dreams of millions of Hispanic boys and girls throughout the U.S. and the world. In a world that all too often tells our children, "no you can't," Derek Parra has shown them that "sí se puede," yes, they can compete! Through faith, determination and hard work, Derek broke down barriers to become a beacon of hope to children everywhere. Derek is truly a role model for others to follow.

Derek Parra made history and opened the world of possibility of Hispanic Americans. Thank you Derek. San Bernardino is proud of you. Mexican Americans are proud of you. All Americans are proud of you. You are our hero. God Bless you.

TRIBUTE TO KANSAS CITIANS' RESPONSE TO OUR RECENT ICE STORM

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, Ms. MCCARTHY and I rise today to pay tribute to the thousands of Kansas City-area residents who over the past two weeks rose to the challenge posed by the worst ice storm to hit the Kansas City metropolitan area in decades.

The storm, which struck our area with unprecedented fury on January 29th and 30th,

cut electric power to over 450,000 area residents and caused more than \$50 million in damage in Missouri and approximately \$47 million plus damage in Kansas. Seven deaths were attributed to the storm.

As the Kansas City Star described it, the storm "blasted through [and] left most of the metropolitan area a dangerous tangle of downed trees, felled power lines and snarled traffic. . . . During an intense 12 hours, from 7 p.m. Wednesday to 7 a.m. Thursday, for example, Johnson County emergency dispatchers took 420 calls, mostly from people reporting tree limbs pulling down overhead lines. The Kansas City Fire Department dispatchers took 1,100 emergency calls in a 12-hour period; ordinarily they receive 1,400 in a month."

Mr. Speaker, our constituents dealt heroically with this unexpected calamity and we want to take special note of the outstanding contributions made by those whose job it was to respond to this crisis: police, firefighters, 911 operators, KCI airport employees, and members of the Missouri and Kansas National Guard, to note just some of them.

Medical teams dealt with cases of carbon monoxide poisoning, exposure, and injuries due to falling tree limbs and falls on ice. Homeless shelters opened their doors to neighbors left without heat and electricity and church groups, the Salvation Army, the Red Cross and municipal emergency services worked overtime and went the extra mile to help those in need during this time of crisis. Countless community volunteers including AmeriCorps, the Boy Scouts, and United Way gave their time to assist in the recovery process. Whether you were in Rosedale or Brookside, Independence or Overland Park, the "Kansas City Spirit" was prevalent with neighbors helping neighbors to cope with the devastation.

Most notably, hundreds of repair crews from area utilities—including Kansas City Power and Light, Missouri Public Service, the Kansas City, Kansas, Board of Public Utilities, Independence Power and Light, Westar Energy, and SBC—worked around the clock, along with 400 out-of-state repair crews and 350 out-of-state tree trimming crews, to replace lines, repair blown fuses and clear ice-laden trees that had cut off power lines and created fire and injury hazards. In fact, it is estimated that of the 450,000 trees that line Kansas City's streets, 10 percent of them will be gone when the cleanup is complete and over 10 percent of the city's privately owned trees also will have perished. To these utility workers, the people of the Kansas City area owe a special debt of gratitude.

We also applaud the leadership of our Governors Bill Graves of Kansas and Bob Holden of Missouri along with the countless local elected officials who worked in tandem with state and federal emergency management officials in compiling the damage assessments to that our Governors could request the Federal Emergency Disaster Declaration. The President and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) acted quickly to start the process of bringing federal relief to our community so that now the full recovery can occur.

Mr. Speaker, we have proven once again Kansas City truly is the heartland of America—when our friends and neighbors are in trouble, our community comes together to address the crisis and to get the necessary job

done—quickly, efficiently and effectively. We have never been prouder to represent the Kansas City metropolitan area.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. EUNICE MERRILL OF HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor a very special lady in the 5th District of Alabama as she celebrates a remarkable anniversary.

Mrs. Eunice Merrill has been serving her home cooking to the people of north Alabama for fifty years. In January of 1952, a time when very few women in Alabama owned their own businesses, she opened "Eunice's Country Kitchen" in Huntsville, Alabama. Over the years, Eunice's Country Kitchen has become a local favorite.

People from all around don't just come to Eunice's for the food. "Aunt" Eunice, as her many patrons know her, is a local celebrity. She is never caught without a smile and shows kindness and warmth to every person who enters her restaurant.

Eunice Merrill shows that same love and affection to her community as well. She is an extremely active member of the Huntsville community, spending much of her time volunteering and raising money for the Arthritis Foundation.

Eunice's Country Kitchen is a place where politicians, business leaders, and other locals can gather to eat, drink coffee, and tell stories. Whether it's at the "Liar's Table" reserved for "Politishins and Fisherfolk" or refilling coffee cups throughout the restaurant, everyone feels right at home at Aunt Eunice's. For fifty years, people from all over the world have visited Eunice's Country Kitchen and have concluded that it truly is the finest place for country ham & biscuits.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely congratulate Aunt Eunice for fifty years of friendly service and great food. And I want to thank here for making me a part of her Alabama family.

DR. BOB ALBIN OF TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY RETIRES

HON. LARRY COMBEST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call my colleagues' attention to the tireless dedication and tremendous effort of Dr. Bob Albin, the Associate Dean of Research for the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources at Texas Tech University. For more than 40 years, Bob has shaped the minds of agriculture students, initiated cutting-edge research throughout the agricultural college, served as a committed faculty member and student advisor, and been a unswerving friend to all of agriculture. As he retires, Bob can look back on his time at Texas Tech with great pride on his many accomplishments.

As the Representative of Lubbock, TX and of Texas Tech University, I have personally

witnessed Bob's work to bring collaborative quality research to Texas Tech through his determined efforts to establish the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Plant Stress and Water Conservation Laboratory in Lubbock. Bob traveled to Washington on a regular basis to testify before the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee and to explain the need for an ARS laboratory in Lubbock that would focus on the plant and crop needs in semiarid production environments such as in West Texas. I am pleased that after all of his hard work, funding was provided for this important facility, which is now nearly constructed and that houses research initiatives between ARS and the University. Thanks to Bob's efforts, scientists have used this facility for research critical to plant science which will keep our farmers the most efficient producers of food and fiber in the world.

I know Bob will be missed by faculty and students alike, but his support and enthusiasm for Texas Tech and agriculture will endure. Bob has always been a Red Raider, and he always will be in the future.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor and pleasure today to express in this public forum my thanks to Dr. Bob Albin for his outstanding service to Texas Tech University and American agriculture and wish him all the best in his retirement.

ANOTHER CHURCH ATTACKED IN INDIA

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, recently another Christian church was attacked in India. The Associated Press reported on February 17 that about 50 militant, extremist Hindu fundamentalists attacked a Catholic church on the outskirts of Bangalore. Unfortunately, this is just the latest incident in a long-standing campaign of repression against Christians and other religious minorities in India, which appears to be tacitly supported by the government. Last year, a cabinet member was quoted as saying that everyone who lives in India must either be a Hindu or be subservient to Hindus. This is part of the Hindutva ideology of the ruling BJP and its parent organization, the RSS, which was founded in support of the Fascists.

This latest incident seems to mirror with so many other actions perpetrated by Hindu militants under the umbrella of the RSS. They have murdered priests, raped nuns, and burned churches. They have attacked Christian schools and prayer halls. It was Hindu militants under the RSS umbrella who burned missionary Graham Staines and his two young sons to death while they slept in their jeep, all the while chanting "Victory to Hanuman," a Hindu god. India subsequently threw Mr. Staines's widow out of the country rather than let her continue his work providing health services for the downtrodden. The RSS itself published a booklet on how to file fake criminal cases against Christians and other religious minorities. Indian police used gunfire to break up a Christian religious festival. More than

200,000 Christians in Nagaland have been murdered by Indian forces. In the face of this pattern of repression, abuse, and tyranny, Prime Minister Vajpayee told an audience in New York, "I will always be a Swayamsewak," invoking the self-designation of RSS members.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, the Indian government has done little to stop or prevent these acts of violence. If the abuse and repression of Christians were the only story, it would be bad enough, but it is not. Sikhs, Muslims, and other minorities have faced repression also. The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs, over 75,000 Kashmiri Muslims, and many thousands of other minorities, including Tamils, Dalit "untouchables," Bodos, Assamese, Manipuris and others. According to the Movement Against State Repression, India admitted to holding 52,268 Sikhs as political prisoners, and we know the numbers the government admits to are generally low. Amnesty International reports that tens of thousands of other minorities are also being held as political prisoners.

To make it worse, Mr. Speaker, it was reported in the January 2 issue of the Washington Times that India is sponsoring cross-border terrorism in the province of Sindh to destabilize Pakistan, which has been a solid, strong ally in the war on terrorism. In addition, India's aggressive military maneuvers have forced Pakistan to shift troops away from the border with Afghanistan to the Indian border, possibly creating an escape for Taliban and Al Qaeda terrorists. In effect, India's actions are abetting the Al Qaeda terrorists.

In light of all this repression and terrorism America must make a strong stand. We must make it clear that such practices are unacceptable for countries that proclaim democratic principles and for countries that seek U.S. support. To do so, we should stop U.S. aid to India until these abuses are ended and we should publicly support the freedom movements within India's borders by calling for a free and fair plebiscite on the issue of Independence for Kashmir, Khalistan, predominantly Christian Nagaland, and the other nations seeking their freedom from India. These measures will help shine the light of freedom on everyone in South Asia.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to place the Associated Press article into the RECORD at this time.

[From the Associated Press, Feb. 17, 2002]

POLICE: HINDU EXTREMISTS HIT CHURCH

BANGALORE, INDIA.—About 50 Hindu hardliners attacked a Roman Catholic church in southern India on Sunday and injured several worshippers, police said.

V.V. Bhaskar, the police chief in the city of Mysore, declined to say how many people were hurt in the attack, which happened on the outskirts of the city.

The assailants threw stones at the church before forcing their way inside, breaking furniture, smashing windows and attacking worshippers.

The men demanded the priest end what they said were efforts to convert local villagers, who are mainly Hindu, Bhaskar said.

Christians make up only a tiny fraction of India's 1 billion-plus population. About 80 percent are Hindus.

Some Hindu extremist groups have accused church officials of trying to attract poor Hindus with promises of money and jobs.

The worst attack against Christians in India took place in 1999, when an Australian missionary and his two children were burned alive by a mob.

TRIBUTE TO COACH JOE DASARO AND THE GRISSOM HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING TEAM

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Coach Joe Dasaro and the Grissom High School Wrestling team from Huntsville, AL. Earlier this month, they took home the 6A State Wrestling Championship, a title they haven't held since 1997. The Tigers won their sixth state championship title in the 19 years that Coach Dasaro has been leading the team. Grissom High School has always upheld the highest standards of excellence in all its endeavors, and this team of outstanding athletes is no exception.

The Grissom team scored 140 points—26 points above any other team in the tournament. Coach Dasaro has called the team solid and consistent, and I am proud of this group of athletes who have maintained an attitude of distinction in all that they do. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Coach Dasaro for his leadership and each member of the Grissom High School wrestling team for their commitment to achieving the championship title.

MIDLAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM WINS STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. LARRY COMBEST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join Midland and Permian Basin in congratulating the Midland Christian School football team in their great victory in the Class 4A state championship title in the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools. Their November victory over Denton Liberty Christian is an accomplishment that is truly deserving of recognition and praise.

The Midland Christian School football program has been built upon a solid foundation of hard work, dedication, and sportsmanship. The Mustangs have shown what today's youth can accomplish when teamwork and determination are applied. They will forever hold a place of honor in the pages of Texas athletics.

It is with great pride that I recognize the members of the Midland Christian School football team and their coach Greg McClendon for this accomplishment. I would also like to recognize the administration and fans that carried them through to victory. Thanks to their tremendous efforts, Midland, TX, is now home to the 2001–2002 Class 4A State Champions for the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools. I congratulate the Midland Christian Mustangs for bringing home a state football title.

TRIBUTE TO FIRE CAPTAIN GLEN
VETRANO

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the work of an outstanding public servant, Fire Captain Glen Vetrano of the Paterson Fire Department, who was recognized on Thursday, October 18, 2001 for his lifelong commitment to helping others.

Fire Captain Vetrano was chosen as the Boys and Girls Club of Paterson's 2001 Man of the Year. The enduring relationship between Glen and the Boys and Girls Club began long ago, when he was only 12 years old.

While enrolled in the old Hawthorne Boys and Girls Club, young Glen demonstrated his altruism and leadership by partnering with community leaders and parents in building a new, vastly improved facility. Even at such a young age, Glen's dedication and ability to lead was recognized, as he was named Youth of the Year for his efforts in the construction of the new building.

Glen Vetrano's desire to serve others certainly continued into his adult life as he chose a career in public safety. After being appointed to the Paterson Fire Department on June 2, 1986, he quickly rose into leadership positions, chosen by his peers as president of the Firefighters Association from 1992–1996 and as the current president of the Fire Officers IAFF Local 3860.

Mr. Speaker, as a lifelong resident and former Mayor of Paterson, I can definitively say that fire Captain Vetrano's capacity for giving is second to none. As a member of the Board of the Boys and Girls Club of Paterson, Glen has been instrumental in the Club's successful growth initiative. Chairing the Marketing Committee and hosting the Club's Annual Winter Beefsteak, Glen Vetrano's devotion and steadfast leadership have produced countless successes for the Boys and Girls Club of Paterson. He has touched countless lives.

No time of year better illustrates the character of my friend Glen Vetrano than the Christmas season. He takes a very special interest in aiding those who might otherwise be overlooked during the joyous holiday season. Glen has founded the Holiday Dinner for the Clergy. He pioneered this dinner to honor those who have devoted themselves to the needs of our residents all year long. Of course, Glen is a staple at the Boys and Girls Club Holiday Party, assisting Santa and helping young people enjoy the Christmas season.

I consider my friendship with Glen Vetrano a blessing, and believe honoring him in this, the permanent record of the greatest democracy ever known, is absolutely necessary.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, the Boys and Girls Club of Paterson, the City of Paterson, Glen's family and friends, all those who have been touched by his altruism, and me in recognizing the invaluable service of Fire Captain Glen Vetrano.

HONORING LIA M. JELINGER

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to submit for the RECORD an essay written by Lia M. Jelinger of my district. Such a kind woman, she serves as an example for all of us and it is important to share her story. Her message is timeless, though it need be oft repeated:

It all started in WWII, whilst suffering under the German Occupation. I was a teenager then, and experienced suffering, hate and destruction. I made a vow, as young as I was not to be part of all this evil, but to show love and compassion the rest of my life toward my fellow men.

It was in 1957 when I immigrated to the United States with 5 kids in tow. My first job opportunity was to work as a nurse in pediatrics in a local hospital. After that I proceeded to become a foster mother and took care all together of 25 foster babies. A few years later I worked for Special Olympics, sewing banners, flags, and ribbons at home so I could be there for my family. I received the "Service to Mankind Award" and personal awards from Eunice Shriver.

In 1990 with so many blessings given to me I started working for the VA here in Toledo 3 days a week under a senior program. Later I found myself with too much idle time on my hands, which could be utilized and decided to volunteer on my off days.

I am 73 years young now and still going strong. I reckon that there are days of achy cracking bones, but that does not stop me to spread love and compassion I have for my co-workers and patients alike being cheerful and to make their day.

I had always wished to some day meet a WWII veteran and one day the opportunity presented itself. A frail old man entered the office and asked for some help with his hearing aid and made clear he was a WWII veteran. I proceeded to ask him where he was in combat and he told me he was in the Netherlands, fighting in the Battle of Arnhem and in Germany. I was overwhelmed since I came from the Netherlands and asked him permission to hug him and so I did thanking him for his contribution towards our freedom. He then started to cry and told me that nobody ever did that to him.

I want to honor those who lost their lives and those who are still living. It was a horrible experience that we went through as civilians also, but the good thing about it for me is, that it formed character.

God bless this great country of ours and may God keep all those courageous men and women then and now safe with his protection and loving care.

TRIBUTE TO JOY BRYSON

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to undertake a sad, yet heart-warming mission—to honor a most cherished staff member, Mrs. Joy Bryson, on her retirement from the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

Joy has been serving for the past eight years as Administrator to the Minority. Pre-

viously, she served for nine years as Chief Clerk to the then majority—a position she devoutly wished to reclaim. Throughout all of these years she served all of the Members of the Committee and to staff with grace, uncommon ability, and a cheerfulness that always bespoke her name—with joy.

Prior to joining the Committee, Joy served as Office Manager for our late distinguished Chairman, Jim Howard. More importantly, Joy served for 14 years the people of the Third Congressional District of New Jersey as if they were her own family, in the process earning their gratitude and affection.

In recognition of her abilities, Chairman Howard asked Joy to take on the important position of Committee Administrator. She continued in this position under the following three Chairmen, Glenn Anderson, Bob Roe, and Norm Mineta, and filled a similar position when we became the minority in 1994. I know that Chairman Roe and Secretary Mineta share my gratitude for Joy's many important contributions to the effective operation of the Committee and its staff.

Joy has been the Committee's expert on the intricacies of the rules governing the Congressional Administrative process; such as our internal budget rules, and our rules on travel, ethics, and retirement. As a former congressional staffer I know well the complexities involved. When someone knows the rules and procedures as well as Joy does, she can anticipate and solve problems of which Members and staff may be blissfully unaware. I know of many occasions when Joy's expertise saved Members and staff much time and effort, and ensured that administrative actions were done right, the first time.

Although Joy knows all the rules and procedures, she is anything but a "green eyeshade" type of public servant. Her professional talents include considerable literacy skills. She has a graceful writing style and a good sense for the telling anecdote—told with a special Southern charm. Joy's talents were particularly well displayed when she helped Members prepare speeches, letters and extensions of remarks, expressing our appreciation for distinguished public service, or our thanks for assistance we received.

Joy was also an excellent recruiter for the Committee. Through her efforts, the Committee consistently attracted an exceptional group of staff assistants, who were highly competent, enthusiastic team players; invaluable for the successful functioning of the Committee.

Joy's greatest contribution to the Committee flowed from her personal qualities—her cheerfulness, her interest in her colleagues, and her maturity and common sense. Joy worked with a number of Staff Directors most of whom had little supervisory experience. She took it upon herself to carry out the sometimes thankless task of breaking them in to the human side of the job, their responsibilities in dealing with personal and work problems of the staff. Joy's dedication to this task, her empathy for the perspective of the administrative staff, and her charm and perceptiveness, gave her great influence, and made the Committee a much better place to work.

Supplementing her public service, Joy has been an active volunteer in community service. I particularly appreciate her dedicated service on behalf of the Jo Oberstar Memorial Lecture Series on Breast Cancer Awareness,

sponsored by the George Washington University Hospital Breast Care Center in memory of my late wife. Joy played a major role in organizing last year's highly successful lecture and fundraiser.

Mr. Speaker, at this time we are in the midst of an Olympic season. If medals were bestowed in the halls of Congress to those staffers who most deserve the title of "champion", Joy Bryson would be one of those on the dais with a medal of gold. As Joy returns to her beloved family, her husband Lit and her children, Chris and Jeni, she carries with her out gratitude for her service, and our prayers for her well being and, most of all, for her happiness.

FEDERAL EMPLOYEES OF AMERICAN SAMOA INCOME TAXES

HON. ENI F.H. FALLOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. FALLOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation which will repeal a provision in the Internal Revenue Code which requires certain federal employees in American Samoa to pay more in income taxes than a citizen with the same taxable income but who is not a federal employee.

By way of background, U.S. citizens with incomes above a certain threshold and residing in a U.S. possession are required to file tax returns with the Internal Revenue Service or a territorial government on their world-wide income. In the past, U.S. citizen-residents of American Samoa were able to claim a dollar for dollar tax credit for all taxes paid or owing to the territory. The taxpayers claimed a foreign tax credit on their federal return, and the amount of the income tax collected by the IRS was either covered over to the American Samoa Government, or was returned to the taxpayers to be paid to the local government. Either way, U.S. citizens paid income taxes at the federal rates to the American Samoa Government.

Section 931 of the Internal Revenue Code sets forth the general rule on income from sources within American Samoa, Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The general rule is that income derived from one of the specified possessions shall not be included as gross income for federal tax purposes. On its face, Section 931(d)(1) creates an exception to this general rule for federal employees who reside in one of these three territories, although the section is currently applicable only to American Samoa. Under this exception, a federal employee's income is considered as part of gross income. As incomes have risen in recent years, more taxpayers are not coming within the laws governing the alternative minimum tax (AMT). Under Section 59 of the Code (one of the AMT provisions), taxpayers can only claim 90 percent of their foreign tax credit against the taxes they owe to the federal government.

The net result of Section 59 and 931 as they are applied to federal employees residing in American Samoa is that the federal employees have to pay the usual tax at federal rates, which is paid over to the territorial government. Some federal employee-taxpayers then pay an additional tax to the IRS. If the tax-

payers were not federal employees, their federal wages would not be included in their gross income and they would not have to pay this additional tax.

The legislation I introduce today will make Section 931(d)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code inapplicable to American Samoa. When this section is changed, these U.S. citizens will still pay taxes, and they will still be subject to the alternative minimum tax like any other taxpayer.

Mr. Speaker, I see no reason we should require our federal civil workers to pay more in taxes than any other citizen does just because he or she has chosen to serve our government. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

TRIBUTE TO BISHOP SIMON GORDON

HON. ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. BLAGOJEVICH. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to rise today to pay tribute to the Honorable Bishop Simon Gordon, Pastor of Tiedstone Full Gospel Baptist Church in Chicago, Illinois. Bishop Gordon was ordained in 1987 and since that time, God, through him, has made and continues to make a difference in many lives. Under his leadership and vision, Tiedstone's membership has grown to over 1,300 and its ministries have grown from the original 13 to 38. Bishop Gordon's untiring service, faithful dedication to the community and strong leadership have earned him the deserved respect and admiration of all whose lives he has touched.

Bishop Gordon has been instrumental in shaping the future of the community, state and country. He formed the Ministerial Alliance to train ministers and deacons to become and operate effectively as leaders of the church. I applaud his leadership and commend him for toiling so long to provide the type of guidance which has empowered so many to make meaningful contributions to the community. His accomplishments are far too numerous to list but I applaud him for each and every one of them and for having the dream and desire to use his faith as a vehicle to effect social, political and economic change. He is a true testament to his faith and an asset to our country. I commend Bishop Simon Gordon and wish him many more years of exemplary service to the Lord.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND RONALD L. OWENS

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call the attention of my colleagues to Reverend Ronald L. Owens residing in the Sixth District of New Jersey. He is celebrating his 25th year in the ministry.

Reverend Owens is currently the Senior Pastor of the New Hope Baptist Church of Metuchen, New Jersey. On Friday, April 12, 2002, his church will recognize his illustrious

career and dedication to Metuchen and surrounding communities.

Rev. Owens graduated from Northeastern Bible College in Essex Falls. He also has earned a degree from the Virginia Union University in Richmond, Virginia. Presently, he is a candidate for the Doctorate in Ministry from Andersonville Baptist Seminary in Camille, Georgia.

At the New Hope Baptist Church he has the unique honor of pastoring the church he attended in his youth. The church has grown to more than five hundred active members, with more than thirty active ministries serving the community.

Rev. Owens has a noteworthy career. It includes serving as a member of the Board of Supervisors for Field Ministry at Princeton Theological Seminary and the Ad-Hoc Committee for Minority Recruitment for Robert Wood's Medical School at Rutgers University. Additionally, he has acted as the president of the Metuchen/Edison Clergy Association and former Vice-Chairman of the Democratic Party of Middlesex County in the State of New Jersey. Lastly, he was President and CEO of the House of Hope Community Development Corporation of New Jersey.

Outside of his career, he spends time with his adoring wife of thirty-years, Cheryl Owens, and his two daughters, Tracey and Kimberly. He also enjoys spending time with his four grandsons, Adam II, Joshua, Blair, Jr. and Brandon.

Through his ministry he spreads the word of God and provides spiritual leadership. Now entering his twenty fifth year of service, I would like to congratulate Reverend Ronald L. Owens on this momentous occasion.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO GARY NICHOLS

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize an outstanding individual who has dedicated his life to serve and protect the citizens of the State of Colorado. Sheriff's Deputy Gary Nichols of the Moffat County Sheriff's Department has faithfully served his fellow Coloradans for years. After a long and successful career as one of Colorado's finest, the Advocates-Crisis Support Services, an organization created to handle and provide crisis support services to victims of crime, named Gary the "Law Enforcement Officer of the Year." As he celebrates his recent achievement, I would like to take this time to highlight Gary's service to his community.

Gary has faithfully served the Moffat County Sheriff's Department in various capacities throughout his career, but it was his ability to provide emotional support and attention to those in need that has led to this award. In every criminal situation, there is always someone who is directly affected by the crime, either a victim or bystander. Part of a law enforcement officer's duty is to not only protect our citizens from harm, but to also provide compassionate and caring assistance to those in need. Gary has repeatedly demonstrated

these traits and proven he is an officer capable of compassion and dedication to his position as a peace officer in Moffat County community. Advocates-Crisis Support Services has worked diligently alongside officers such as Gary, and has rewarded past officers with similar traits for this important and dubious honor. I am extremely proud of not only Gary but also the crisis organization, as they both are our first responder units in times of hardship and crisis.

Mr. Speaker, as a former law enforcement officer, I am well aware of the dangers and hazards our peace officers face today. These individuals work long hours, weekends, and holidays to guarantee their fellow citizen's rights and protection. They work tirelessly and with great sacrifice to their personal and family lives to ensure our freedoms remain strong in our homes and communities. Their service and dedication deserve the recognition and thanks of this body of Congress, and this is why I bring the name of officers like Gary Nichols to light today. Congratulations on this honor and I wish you all the best, Gary, and good luck in your future.

REMARKS BY FORMER
CONGRESSMAN TOM EVANS

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I recommend to my colleagues that you read some remarks by former Congressman Tom Evans of Delaware he delivered recently at the University of Delaware.

Tom Evans, who played a key role in the passage of the Alaska Lands Act, sets forth compelling reasons why one of America's great treasures, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, should continue to be protected.

I strongly agree with him on the need to preserve that great wilderness area and protect the wildlife there. There are much better and quicker ways to develop energy independence in America without oil drilling in the Arctic Refuge.

PRESERVING THE ARCTIC NATIONAL
WILDLIFE REFUGE

(Delivered by Thomas B. Evans, Jr.)

It's a great pleasure to be here this evening at the University of Delaware. I appreciate the wonderful turnout and am especially grateful for your strong support of the environment and for the work you do here at the University in that area.

As you know, there is a critical vote coming up in the U.S. Senate late in February that has enormous consequences for millions of acres of wilderness and all kinds of wildlife. I will address those things, but first I'd like to go back to 1980 and reflect on what happened then.

Although passage of the Alaska Lands Act took place over two decades ago, I can remember it better than some events that occurred just two weeks ago. This landmark piece of legislation set aside additional millions of acres of land and designated them as wilderness areas. It was a gigantic effort to achieve the preservation of some irreplaceable, pristine areas of wilderness for us and for future generations. I was honored to have been one of the three principal congressional backers and the Republican floor leader for the bill.

The bill passed, and yes millions of acres of land were protected, but there was something that was equally as important. There was a tremendous lobbying effort against it, and millions of dollars were spent. The dollars spent by our Alaska Coalition paled in comparison to the lobbying effort that attempted to prevent passage of the legislation that was designed to protect wild scenic rivers, wetlands, polar bears, songbirds, caribou, ducks and other wildlife of every description.

We won with 60 plus Republicans voting yea. It was, indeed, a true bipartisan effort; and that, unfortunately, does not take place very often in today's political climate. Afterwards, three of us were invited to a very emotional victory celebration hosted by the Alaska Coalition. That coalition consisted primarily of young people who spent the summer in Washington. They came to Washington to protect a great treasure for future generations. John Seiberling of Ohio, who chaired one of the subcommittees with jurisdiction over this issue, and Mo Udall, a dedicated environmentalist from Arizona, and I were deeply touched by their invitation, and the warm reception we received. I believe I can safely say it was certainly one of the best invitations I've received in my lifetime.

Mo Udall and John Seiberling both spoke eloquently and certainly covered the importance of the legislation. I didn't want to repeat them; so I took a slightly different tack and said that victory today was great in terms of conservation and preservation of millions of pristine acres. But there was an equally important victory today—all of you proved that regardless of dollars and political pressure, our constitutional system of government still works. You can still win, and that's the American way."

Today, we may be facing an even sterner test. Some of the arguments made by proponents of drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge sound good on the surface. They call for energy independence and equate that to our national security interest. Well, I also believe in developing energy independence so we won't be dependent on a bunch of sheiks in a very unstable part of the world. And certainly energy independence is inextricably related to national security. But this administration, which most of us strongly support in our country's fight against terrorism, is wrong on the centerpiece of its energy policy. Domestic production of oil should not be the primary focus.

Perhaps it would help us all to better understand the Administration's energy policy if we took a look at how it was developed. Vice President Cheney took the lead, and about half a dozen staff members were specifically assigned to develop a working draft. That staff included two top assistants of Senator Murkowski, the main congressional proponent of drilling in the Arctic, and to the best of my knowledge no one on the task force had any experience or background or demonstrated interest in the protection of the environment.

The group met often with oil company executives and a number of times with Enron officials. No wonder that their plan emphasizes domestic production and contains very little on the conservation side. In fact, Vice President Cheney said that conservation may be a personal virtue, but it does little, if anything, to achieve energy independence. That statement demonstrates an appalling, but predictable, bias in favor of oil drilling. But he's wrong, and each of us conserving small amounts of energy can make a big difference on a cumulative basis.

Let me dispel some myths and make a few points on the need for a balanced energy plan—one that clearly should not include

drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge—one of our greatest American treasures!

There is not a tremendous amount of oil in the Arctic refuge. Why develop it simply out of greed when there are so many alternatives?

There is a much better way to achieve energy independence without doing irreparable, irreversible harm to the most environmentally sensitive area of one of the most pristine areas of the world—the narrow coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Alternative sources of energy, including renewable sources of energy, are available, while oil is a finite resource. Fossil fuels will be exhausted some day, but the wind and sun will always be around.

Fuel economy standards for cars and trucks hold be raised. Even a very modest mile or two per gallon would make a huge difference. We should also provide incentives for conservation, more efficient power plants, development of fuel cells, better insulation for homes and office buildings and more energy-efficient appliances.

There are also secure alternative sources of oil and gas outside the Middle East. Russia is a prime example, and I recently spent ten days in that country assessing its potential.

It will be seven to ten years before oil from the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge comes on stream. Yet, you may recall that proponents of drilling initially used the argument that implied that the California energy problem could be resolved if we drilled in ANWR. Well, California solved its problem in other ways—including conservation—so now the drilling proponents are invoking the national security argument. That's an absurd argument as well!

New pipelines will have to be built that would be exposed to terrorists. Several months ago, a high-powered rifle shot took out an existing pipeline for several weeks.

And don't be fooled by the argument that technology has developed to the point where oil wells could be drilled on only 2,000 acres of the 19 million in ANWR. That's not the full picture. You also have to take into account the logistics that support the oil wells—oil derricks, trucks, helicopter pads, people, roads, pumping stations and networks of oil field pipelines, even without the toxic spills and air pollution that are endemic in such fields, destroy wilderness and imperil wildlife. And remember that when you damage the tundra, you may destroy it for 100 years or more. What we grow in our climate in a year takes decades there.

We have treated Native Americans harshly from the beginning. Now, we are doing it again. The Gwichin Indian tribe live in the Arctic Refuge, and they view the land as sacred. Certainly, oil drilling on this land is inconsistent with preserving it as a sacred place.

As Barrons, the well known financial publication, pointed out recently, "we are entering a period when there is a glut of oil." The publication's cover proclaimed "The Coming Glut of Oil."

Therefore, we should ask the question, is it necessary to drill now? If, in the future, we are unable to develop alternative sources of energy (I believe we can, given the right commitment), if gasoline is \$10 a gallon with long lines to even get gas, then it might be something we should consider, but certainly not now! Don't approve something that will do irreparable harm, something that cannot be reversed. Drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge should be considered only as a last resort!

So, ladies and gentlemen, let me end by saying as I did over twenty years ago that in spite of the money, the political influence,

and the greed, you can make a difference. Let history record—say, 50 to 100 years from now—that this generation cared, that we persevered, that we preserved, and that we recognized that important decisions should be made not just for today and not just for a few—but very importantly—for future generations of Americans as well!!

IN MEMORY OF THE HONORABLE
DEOTIS GAY OF LA PORTE, TEXAS

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of a longtime friend and respected former member of the La Porte City Council of La Porte, Texas, Deotis Gay, who passed away at his home on February 21, 2002. The community of La Porte has lost one of their most beloved and respected citizens. Deotis was a constituent, colleague, and friend with whom I was privileged to know and work with. I will miss his wisdom and guidance.

Mr. Gay was born December 19, 1931, in Kilgore, Texas, and moved to La Porte with his family when he was nine years old. He retired after working for Rohm and Haas Deer Park for 35 years. Besides his 20 years of service on the La Porte City Council that ended just this past year, Deotis was active in the National League of Cities, the Texas Municipal League, the Texas Black Caucus and the La Porte Community Civic Club. He was also a Mason and a member of the board of trustees of Zion Hill Baptist Church.

Deotis was more than just a great civic leader; he was also a great Texan, a loyal friend, and a devoted husband, father and grandfather. I offer my sincere condolences to his wife, Mary; his sons, Deotis Gay, Jr. and Anthony Gay; his daughter Cheryl Gay, his seven grandchildren, and his entire extended family. We feel for their loss as we mourn the passing of this exceptional man. Deotis was a true friend to everyone in La Porte and to me personally.

ARTICLE COMPARES INDIA TO
AUSTRIA-HUNGARY—INDIA IS
HEADING FOR SIMILAR BREAK-
UP

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call the attention of my colleagues to an article by Steve Forbes in the March 4 issue of Forbes magazine called "India, Meet Austria-Hungary." In the article, Mr. Forbes compares present-day India to the old Austro-Hungarian Empire. Like Austria-Hungary, India is a multi-ethnic, multinational country. Such countries are unstable, as Mr. Forbes notes, and they face a similar peril.

The article notes that some leaders in India are "itching to go to war with Pakistan, even though Pakistan's President Pervez Musharraf has taken considerable political risks by moving against Pakistani-based-and-trained anti-India terrorist groups." At the same time, ac-

cording to a January 2 article in the Washington Times, India continues to sponsor cross-border terrorism against Pakistan. The article notes that when the Austro-Hungarian monarchy attacked Serbia in 1914, it launched a war in which the Hapsburgs lost their empire. Today, several countries exist where the Austro-Hungarian Empire once was.

India is in similar circumstances. It should learn from the example of Austria-Hungary, the Soviet Union, and other multinational empires. It should realize that the breakup of such states is inevitable. The Soviet Union and Austria-Hungary had a stronger, more stable political structure and they fell apart because such multinational states cannot be held together. In fact, Indian Home Minister L.K. Advani recently said that if Kashmir gets its freedom, India will unravel.

Yet India continues its futile efforts to maintain its multinational state by force, in pursuit of Hindu hegemony. It continues to attack and kill Christians, Sikhs, Muslims, Dalits, and other minority groups. It continues to hold tens of thousands of political prisoners, something I find very odd for a democracy. Indian forces have killed more than 250,000 Sikhs, over 200,000 Christians in Nagaland, more than 75,000 Kashmiri Muslims, and many thousands of minorities of all kinds. This repressive policy will not work. Eventually, the force that broke up the Soviet Union and broke up the Austro-Hungarian Empire will break up India. I hope that this happens peacefully. With the war on terrorism ongoing, we do not need another violent trouble spot in the world.

America can encourage this process of nationalism and freedom in South Asia. We should press India for the release of all political prisoners. We should stop our aid and trade with India until they are released and the oppression of minorities ends. We should openly declare our support for self-determination for all peoples and nations in South Asia. By these measures we will help everyone in the subcontinent to live freely, prosperously, in dignity, stability, and peace.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert the Forbes article into the RECORD at this time.

[From Forbes Magazine, Mar. 4, 2002]

INDIA, MEET AUSTRIA-HUNGARY

(By Steve Forbes)

Influential elements in India's government and military are still itching to go to war with Pakistan, even though Pakistan's President Pervez Musharraf has taken considerable political risks by moving against Pakistani-based-and-trained anti-India terrorist groups. Sure, Musharraf made a truculent speech condemning India's "occupation" of Kashmir, but that was rhetorical cover for cracking down on those groups. Washington should send New Delhi some history books for these hotheads; there is no human activity more prone to unintended consequences than warfare. As cooler heads in the Indian government well know, history is riddled with examples of parties that initiated hostilities in the belief that conflict would resolutely resolve outstanding issues.

Pericles of Athens thought he could deal with rival Sparta once and for all when he triggered the Peloponnesian War; instead his city-state was undermined and Greek civilization devastated. Similarly, Hannibal brilliantly attacked Rome; he ended up not only losing the conflict but also setting off a train of events that ultimately led to the total destruction of Carthage. Prussia smashed France in 1870, annexing critical French ter-

ritory for security reasons, but that sowed the seeds for the First World War. At the end of World War I the victorious Allies thought they had dealt decisively with German military power. Israel crushed its Arab foes in 1967, but long-term peace did not follow.

India is not a homogeneous state. Neither was the Austro-Hungarian Empire. It attacked Serbia in the summer of 1914 in the hopes of destroying this irritating state after Serbia had committed a spectacular terrorist act against the Hapsburg monarchy. The empire ended up splintering, and the Hapsburgs lost their throne.

And on it goes.

Getting back to the present, do Indian war hawks believe China will stand idly by as India tried to reduce Pakistan to vassal-state status? Do they think Arab states and Iran won't fund Muslim guerrilla movements in Pakistan, as well as in India itself? Where does New Delhi think its oil comes from (about 70%, mainly from the Middle East)? Does India think the U.S. will stand by impotently if it starts a war that unleashes nuclear weapons?

In his second inaugural address, Abraham Lincoln summed up the unpredictable consequences of war, vis-à-vis America's Civil War: "Neither party expected for the war the magnitude or the duration which it has already attained. . . . Each looked for an easier triumph, and a result less fundamental and astounding."

DUTCH TREAT

While cracking down on anti-India terrorist groups operating in Pakistan, Islamabad can take the wind out of Indian war sails by turning over the arrested terrorists who carried out murderous acts in Kashmir and New Delhi. It can turn them over not to India—which would be political suicide domestically—but to The Hague for investigation and trial by an international tribunal. India's moral case would then evaporate.

RECOGNIZING CAPTAIN JAMES B.
STRAIT

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an impressive member of my community, Captain James B. Strait. Captain James B. Strait has played an important role in the Monterey Park Police Department and will be retiring after 31 years of service.

Captain Strait joined the Monterey Park Police Department on February 8, 1971 after graduating first in his class from the Riverside County Sheriff's Academy.

Under his leadership, the Monterey Park Police Department made significant changes that improved the Police Department's service to the community. In addition to chairing the Department's Computer Acquisition team and implementing a state of the art digital radio system, he also worked to publish the department's first policy and procedures manual.

In 1985, Captain Strait was awarded the Police Department's Distinguished Service Medal for his help in apprehending a person wielding a hand grenade. During the 1984 Summer Olympic Games, Captain Strait had the honor of being named Monterey Park Police Department's representative for the Security Coordination Center.

Captain Strait's dedication to community activism was shown when he became a founding member of the Mental Illness and Law Enforcement Systems (M.I.L.E.S.) executive board and a member of the Montclair School Board.

Captain Strait has worked diligently to improve law enforcement performance through his career. He has been a true professional and will be missed by his many friends at the Monterey Park Police Department and other state law enforcement agencies but will be missed the most by the citizens whose lives he has touched.

FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NORTHWEST KIDNEY CENTERS

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, forty years ago January 1962, in Seattle, Wash., a major development in health care occurred with the opening of the Seattle Artificial Kidney Center as the world's first out-of-hospital dialysis unit.

Two years previously, Dr. Belding Scribner, head of the Division of Nephrology at the University of Washington, together with surgeon David Dillard and engineer Wayne Quinton, inserted a small length of bent Teflon tubing into the forearm of Clyde Shields who was dying of chronic kidney failure—now known as end-stage renal disease (ESRD). This device, known as the Scribner shunt, first made possible the long-term treatment of ESRD patients by the artificial kidney. Several other patients began treatment shortly thereafter and also survived, and so it soon became obvious that this was a successful treatment for a previously fatal disease.

Because of Dr. Scribner's concern that funds were not available to provide this expensive treatment, in 1961 he approached Dr. James Haviland, then President of the King County Medical Society, to consider development of a center to provide dialysis for ESRD patients in the state of Washington. As a result of the efforts of these two physicians, the King County Medical Society, the Washington State Medical Association and the Seattle Area Hospital Council cooperated with private individuals to open and out-of-hospital, free-standing community-supported dialysis center in Seattle. This was the first time that dialysis was provided outside a hospital and supervised by nurses rather than by physicians. The Seattle Artificial Kidney Center, now the Northwest Kidney Center, served as a prototype for the development of dialysis units around the world. Over the next several years, the Center developed training manuals for physicians, nurses and technicians. At the same time, and for years thereafter, physicians and other health care personnel from this and many other countries came to Seattle to visit the Center and learn from its program.

Continuing concern about the high cost of dialysis led to the development of home dialysis in Seattle. London and Boston in the early 1960s. This proved highly beneficial for patients and became a major treatment alternative at the Seattle Artificial Kidney Center. Today, the Northwest Kidney Centers still has the largest home hemodialysis program in the United States.

Also in the 1960's and early 1970's, Dr. Scribner, Dr. Christopher Blagg and other physicians worked with Senators Jackson and Magnuson to introduce national legislation to assist in the support of ESRD patients. These efforts culminated in 1972, when Public Law 92-603 was enacted into law and extended Medicare coverage for dialysis treatment and kidney transplantation to almost all ESRD patients in this country.

Over the last 40 years, the Northwest Kidney Center has been a leader, respected both nationally and internationally, for providing high quality care for ESRD patients. It has treated many thousands of patients over the years, and now serves more than a thousand dialysis patients in eleven dialysis units throughout King County. Together with the University of Washington, it has played an important role in research and the development of dialysis techniques and technology, and in the training of kidney specialists from around the world. The efforts of its staff have also been influential with the Congress, agencies of the Federal Government, the Washington State Government and various of the health care organizations involved in the care of ESRD patients in helping to see that the Medicare ESRD Program meets the aims of its founders.

At this time, there are more than 350,000 dialysis patients and more than 3,500 dialysis units in this country, and about one million patients on dialysis worldwide. It thus seems appropriate today to honor the 40th anniversary of the world's first dialysis unit and its founders, Drs. Belding Scribner and James Haviland.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM HERMAN FAIRBROTHER

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to William H. Fairbrother served his country for thirty years and did what he loved.

William Herman Fairbrother was born in Endicott, New York, on March 28, 1923, the son of Lieutenant Herman and Caroline Fairbrother. He grew up on a variety of Infantry Posts, to include the Panama Canal Zone, and Manila, Philippine Islands. Bill entered the United States Military Academy at West Point on a Congressional appointment from the 34th District of New York. When he arrived at West Point he knew the prepared sling, the hasty sling and had qualified with the 30-caliber water-cooled machine gun. This made it easy to shoot expert with the M1 Garand plebe year. Academics, however, were something else. With the help of "Sully's Cram School" in Washington, DC the previous year he did fairly well in the first half year. But after that it was a continuing struggle to stay proficient. Because of many moves, High School had been rushed and spotty, and the four years of Academy study being rushed into three because of World War II made the task even harder. On the other hand, flying, which was his first love went smoothly. Primary flight training in Texas and then Basic and Advanced at Stewart during the three years went without problems. It

was during the Plebe year that he picked up the nickname "Fair-Bee" in keeping with the academy tradition to reduce the spoken word to its simplest form.

Fair-B graduated with the class of 1944, the D-Day class, albeit rather far down the list. On the very next day, in the Cadet Chapel, he married his childhood sweetheart, Patricia Ross of Kenmore, New York and they lived happily ever after. P-40 and P-47 training, together with those of the class selected for the Fighter business, followed with time at many different bases, as the Service endeavored to stuff as much military experience into the class as they could before sending them overseas. Shortly thereafter it was Le Shima Flying P-47's against the Japanese. After the war the unit moved over to Okinawa and Patricia joined him there in 1946. They, along with many other pioneer souls set up house-keeping in a Quonset hut. Number one daughter, Bonnie was born in Okinawa in 1947. In December 1947, Fair-B brought the family back to the US to Selfridge, Michigan. The duty was with the 56th Fighter Group flying F-80's and F-86's, where he was squadron adjutant and group adjutant. It was during this time, in 1948, that daughter number two, Nancy, was born. In 1951 it was off to Minneapolis in the Air Defense Control Center business. There he was assigned as an aircraft controller and control center chief with the 31st Air Division. Flying time was cadged from the local guard squadron, which was equipped with P-51s. Then in 1953 cold weather assignments continued, this time to Rapid City, South Dakota and the 54th Fighter Interceptor Squadron at Ellsworth Air Force Base. This was probably the happiest assignment in his career, with over two years of the time there being in command of the squadron. Initially, the airplanes were P-51s, then F84Gs and finally F-86Ds. He had always said that next to being a Captain and Fighter Squadron Flight commander, the position of Fighter Squadron Commander was the best job in the Air Force.

Exchange duty with the Royal Air Force at RAF Manby, England followed in June of 1956. The assignment was attendance at the RAF Flying College. The family thoroughly enjoyed this short tour living in the small East Anglia town of Sutton-on-Sea, going to English Schools, learning the language, dealing with pounds, schillings and pence, and driving the left side of the road. Fair-B accumulated a respectable amount of time in British Aircraft to include the Gloster meteor, Hawker Hunter and British Electric Canberra. In January 1957 the family arrived in Rabat Morocco. The assignment here was Chief, Combat Operations in the 316th Air Division. Further broadening and true sophistication took place during this time. Not only was the Division partially manned with French Air Force personnel but also, the family lived in a French villa and had an Arab houseboy. In addition, flights on military aircraft, with family, up to the European continent were allowed once a year. They took full advantage of this privilege and managed to visit Spain, Portugal, Italy, France, Germany and Switzerland during their Moroccan stay. The Division Fighter Squadrons were equipped with F-86D and F-100 aircraft so Fair-B was able to keep his hand in. There were many trips to Wheelus Air Force Base in Tripoli, Libya, where the squadrons when TDY for gunnery and rocketry training.

The three and a half years in North Africa went by quickly, and the return to the US happened in June 1960 with attendance at the Air War College. Following graduation from the Air War College he spent a long five years in the Pentagon, first on the Air Staff in War Plans and then as Executive Assistant in the Office of the Air Force Chief of Staff. One year with Curtis LeMay and one year with John McConnell provided rare and valuable staff experience.

After the fast pace of the Washington area, duty on the CINCPAC staff in Hawaii, starting in 1966, seemed slow indeed. Here Fair-B served on the staff of the Commander in Chief, Pacific, at Camp Smith. Not only did they take off for the weekends, but Wednesday afternoons as well. The duty was good, with many evaluation trips to the MAAG supported countries in the Far East. This, together with quarters on Hickam, and the benevolent Hawaiian weather made for a delightful tour.

Patricia stayed in Hawaii when Fair-B went to the Republic of Vietnam to join the 14th Special Operations Wing. As Vice Commander and then Commander he was kept busy monitoring the varied activities of the Wing, which were performed from nine separate bases. The little command O-2 spent a lot of time touring the country. In addition to the clandestine operations, the Wing had the AC-47 and AC-119 gunships, the psychological warfare business with O-2s and C-47s and the only armed helicopter squadron in the Air Force, flying UH-1Ns. He served the Wing from September 1969, to September 1970.

After Vietnam the next assignment as Deputy Chief of Staff at Headquarters Air Force Logistics Command at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio with the job of DCS Distribution. The assignment was not because of any logistics experience but mainly because the boss man wanted some operational talent on the staff. The job was fascinating and of enormous scope. Fair-B jumped in with his typical enthusiasm and his performance helped in getting him promoted to Brigadier General on April 1, 1972. Separation from the Air Force came in 1974 with Fair-B being allowed to keep the wife and kids and the Air Force keeping the airplanes. His decorations and awards include the Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross with oak leaf cluster, Air Medal with two oak leaf clusters and the Meritorious Service Medal. He was a command pilot.

Fair-B and Patricia, hand in hand then returned to Hawaii, their choice of all the places they had tried throughout the years. They moved into an apartment on Waikiki beach and then took the time to read what there wasn't time for before, and work on the projects that had long ago been put aside. Other activities during this eight-year idyll included working with the House Republican Whip in the Hawaii State Legislature, activities with the Retiree Affairs Council at Hickam and work with the Oahu Chapter of the Air Force Association. 1982 found them in San Antonio, Texas, and in 1987 they made their next-to-the-last PAC move into a cottage at Air Force Village II. Fair-B served three years as a Trustee on the Board of the Air Force Village Foundation, and over three years as a Director on the Air Force Village II Board of Directors.

He died at 6 am on January 27th at Air Force Village II. He is survived by Patricia;

daughters and sons-in-law Bonnie and Jerold Kreidler, Nancy and James Councilor and granddaughters Katherine and Patricia Councilor.

While it can be said he never single handedly moved the world around, he certainly participated in many worthwhile events that did. As a result those who knew him well can look back over his busy years and say, "Not too shabby, old son, not too shabby."

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to General William H. Fairbrother. I especially wish to extend the gratitude of a grateful nation to his wife Patricia and daughters Bonnie and Nancy for so selflessly supporting his service to our country. I salute General Fairbrother as he represented the honor, and the values, of America's greatest generation.

CHURCH ATTACKED BY HINDU MILITANTS—PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANS IN INDIA CON- TINUES

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, the other day the Washington Times ran an excellent article on an attack on a church outside Mysore, India by the Bajrang Dal, a branch of the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS), which is the parent organization of the ruling party, the BJP. The attack seriously wounded about 20 people, according to the article. Approximately 70 attackers wore the saffron headbands that symbolize the militant Hindu nationalists. They attacked while worship was going on.

This attack is part of what the Times called a "new spate of attacks." It also reports that in February, two church workers and a teenage boy were shot while praying and the boy was injured; two Christian missionaries were beaten with rods while bicycling home; and a Christian cemetery in Port Blair was vandalized. Those are just incidents that have occurred this month. Unfortunately, they are part of a pattern that church leaders described as a "reign of terror."

Since Christmas 1998, a number of priests have been murdered in India, several nuns have been raped (with the enthusiastic endorsement of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP), another branch of the RSS), churches have been burned, missionary Graham Staines and his two young sons have been burned to death while sleeping in their jeep, Christian schools and prayer halls have been attacked, and numerous other acts of violence and/or hatred have taken place. In 1997, police opened fire on a Christian religious festival, putting an end to it.

Last year, a member of the Indian cabinet said that everyone who lives in India must either be a Hindu or be subservient to Hindus. It is clear, Mr. Speaker, that India intends to ram its Hindutva policy down the throats of everyone in the subcontinent.

Christians are not the only ones being oppressed by the militant Hindu regime in Delhi. Sikhs, Kashmiris, Dalits, and others have also been tyrannized in the name of Hindu nationalism. Just recently more Kashmiris have been made to disappear by the Indian government.

A report by the Movement Against State Repression shows that India holds over 52,000 Sikh political prisoners and Amnesty International reports that there are tens of thousands of others. The government's forces have murdered more than a quarter of a million Sikhs, over 200,000 Christians in Nagaland, over 75,000 Kashmiri Muslims, and thousands upon thousands of people from the Dalit caste, as well as minorities such as Tamils, Assamese, Manipuris, Bodos, and others. How can India call itself a democracy when things like this go on with the support of the government? These are not the acts of a democracy.

It is important for America to speak out. I am speaking out today because religious and political freedoms are essential democratic values. America must bring its power to bear peacefully in support of true democracy and freedom in South Asia, and if our influence does not move the region toward real freedom, then we should be willing to use whatever other peaceful means we have at our disposal to end the violence and bring peace, freedom, and stability to all the peoples and nations there.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to place the Times article in the RECORD at this time.

[From the Washington Times, Feb. 25, 2002]

NEW SPATE OF ATTACKS TARGETS CHRISTIANS (By Julian West)

NEW DELHI.—Violence against India's Christian minority has surged this year, with reports of at least one attack each week in what church leaders are calling a "reign of terror" spreading throughout the country.

In the most recent incident, about 70 men wearing saffron headbands—an emblem of the Hindu nationalist—attacked a church near Mysore, in South India, where children were attending a catechism class. The attack last week seriously wounded about 20 people.

In other incidents this month:

Two church workers and a teen-age boy were shot at while praying, and the boy was injured.

Two Christian missionaries were beaten with iron rods while bicycling home.

A Christian cemetery in Port Blair on the Andaman Islands was vandalized.

Four of the attacks were in Uttar Pradesh, the North Indian state where counting in local government elections ends today and where the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) fared poorly.

Much of the violence against Christians has taken place in states ruled by the BJP, but church leaders say that last year the number of incidents in states like Karnataka, which has a Congress party government, has risen alarmingly.

In the latest and most violent incident in the state, an angry mob wearing saffron headbands, carrying placards and shouting anti-Christian slogans descended on the Holy Family church in Hinkal, a suburb of Mysore, just after Mass last Sunday.

"The children were crying," said Father William, who was protected by his parishioners. "They could see their parents being beaten up, from the windows."

About 20 people were later taken to the hospital.

Describing the incident as unprecedented in a city whose roughly 30,000 Christians have previously had good relations with their Hindu neighbours. Father Nerona, a member of the Diocesan Council, said that he thought the attack had been provoked by a misunderstanding over a round of Christmas carols.

"They said the carols were converting people, but actually the carol singers only went

to Catholic homes," he said. "We were terribly shocked. This has always been such a peaceful city."

The recent attacks follow what church leaders call "a false lull," occurring after the international outrage last year over the burning alive of Graham Staines, an Australian missionary, and his two small sons last year.

"Physically, many of the incidents are now less obvious," said John Dayal, secretary general of the All India Christian Council. "But there is a 24-hour reign of terror, which occasionally bursts into violence."

Last year the Indian government reported 240 incidents—including about 22 murders—in the year leading up to 2000, and almost every week newspapers carry an account of a ransacked church, an assaulted or murdered priest or a vandalized cemetery.

Many of the assailants are member of the Bajrang Dal, a militant Hindu nationalist organization linked to the BJP, which has carried out many of the most violent attacks on Christians in India.

Church leaders maintain, however, that all the attacks—whether they are carried out by the Bajrang Dal or its fellow Hindu nationalist organizations—have the tacit approval of the BJP government.

"The Bajrang Dal are ruffians, but someone must have told them what to do the previous night," said Mr. Dayal.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CASEY SWANSON

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of pride that I pay today to senior Colorado State Parks ranger Casey Swanson, whose courageous act of capturing two dangerous fugitives went above and beyond the call of duty, and displayed a measure of heroism worthy of being brought before this body of Congress. During his tenure as a Colorado State Parks ranger, Casey has embodied the ideals of integrity, honesty and courage that we, as Americans, have come to expect from the men and women who serve in our state parks. I, along with the citizens of Colorado, am both grateful and proud of Casey's extraordinary act of valor, and believe it appropriate to pay tribute to him for his courage and bravery.

Though not typically in the job description, Casey's extraordinary efforts to apprehend two armed killers near Salida, Colorado on September 29, 2001 are a testament to his relentless dedication to his job, to his community and to his state. After checking on a colleague who was manning a roadblock, Casey became involved in the search for the two killers. Being familiar with the area, he led a search team into the Castle Gardens area and later stood watch in the dark above a creek that ran through the area. After waiting for some time, Casey spotted the fugitives and ultimately coaxed them out of their hiding place, enabling other officers to join him in peacefully detaining the killers. Because of his incredible bravery, these criminals are now in the hands of law enforcement officials, and of no threat to anyone else in the area. His courage in the

face of both fear and adversity is truly remarkable, and for his efforts, Casey was named the outstanding ranger of the year by the Colorado State Parks.

Mr. Ranger, I am honored today to rise and pay tribute to a man whose actions are the very essence of all that makes this country great, and I am deeply honored to be able to bring them to the attention to this body of Congress. It is in times of great need that true heroes emerge, and I am proud to say Casey Swanson is a hero not only to me, but to his family, his friends and to this country. It is with a great deal of pride that I stand to honor him today, and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES ACT OF 2002

HON. PETER HOEKSTRA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bipartisan bill to reauthorize the Museum and Library Services Act. I would like to thank the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Select Education, Mr. ROEMER, for working with me to put together a bill that I trust will have broad, bipartisan support in the Congress. The Museum and Library Services Act of 1996 authorizes the Federal library and museum program until the end of fiscal year 2002. The Subcommittee on Select Education of the Committee on Education and the Workforce has been working to reauthorize the Museum and Library Services Act before it expires.

I believe there will be broad support for this reauthorization because museums and libraries are a vital part of our society. Attendance at American museums is now at more than 865 million visits per year and today's 21st century library is not just a provider of books; instead, the typical American library coordinates a complete and comprehensive approach to community development and services. Under current law, the Museum and Library Services Act:

Provides modest but essential federal support, in partnership with State and local private and public sector sources, for museum and library contributions to public education services and stewardship of the Nation's cultural heritage collections;

Funds the one Federal agency (the Institute of Museum and Library Services) devoted exclusively to museums and libraries, which are natural partners with out nation's schools; and

Encourages model cooperation between museums and libraries as no other legislation does.

The Library Services and Technology subtitle is the only Federal program solely devoted to supporting libraries. This legislation assists libraries in providing crucial services to the communities they serve. Throughout our Nation, libraries are at the forefront of reading and family literacy programs. And importantly, libraries serve as essential links to the business community, assisting with job creation and training programs, and assisting with busi-

ness development initiatives as well. They are also critical to many people with disabilities, providing them with specialized materials and resources that are obtainable in a single location. For older Americans, libraries provide a place to interact with others, use the Internet, and receive services. For those persons of limited resources or who live in remote areas, libraries provide access to books and reference materials, computers and the Internet, and community-based social services that are often available no where else.

The Museum and Library Services Act also supports museums in their educational role and assists museums in modernizing their methods and facilities so that they are better able to conserve the cultural, historic, and scientific heritage of the United States. Museums play an important role in the education of people of all ages. Specifically, most American museums provide K-12 educational programming, with most using local and State curriculum standards to shape their programs. Additionally, museums increasingly partner with libraries to offer joint educational opportunities for adults as well as children.

Museums can be an important source of cultural and historical knowledge for people, as they learn about the history and traditions of our country and our shared identity as Americans. Museums increasingly serve as places where people of different backgrounds, economic levels and home locations come together and not only share the experience of viewing their community's artifacts and natural objects, but also discuss community issues.

The Museum and Library Services Act of 2002 makes several modifications to current law to streamline and strengthen museum and library services across the country:

Coordination—Ensures that library activities are coordinated with activities under P.L. 107-110, the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001;

Museum and Library Services Board—Eliminates references to the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science and consolidates its advisory responsibilities under the existing Museum Services Board that will expand to include library services. The purpose of this change is to consolidate museum and library board activities under a single statute;

National Awards for Museum and Library Service—Authorizes the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Director to award a National Award for Library Service as well as a National Award for Museum Service;

Analysis of Impact of Museum and Library Services—Ensures that administrative funds are also used to conduct annual analyses of the impact of museum and library services to identify needs and trends of services provided under museum and library programs; and

Minimum Allotment—Increases the minimum State allotment for library programs to \$500,000 (roughly a 46 percent increase over current law).

I hope that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle cosponsor the Museum and Library Services Act of 2002. I look forward to moving this legislation through the Committee on Education and the Workforce and to the Floor so that we can ensure that our Nation's museums and libraries are getting the best assistance we are able to provide from the Federal level.

ARREST AIDS PURSUIT OF
WEAPONS NETWORK

HON. TONY P. HALL

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I commend your attention and that of our colleagues to a report in today's Washington Post, "Arrest Aids Pursuit of Weapons Network."

This article is part of reporter Douglas Farah's continuing exposé of the role conflict diamonds are playing in funding terror in Africa and terrorist attacks on America. Today's page-one story details significant progress in our intelligence agencies' effort to cut off the flow of sophisticated arms to Al Qaeda, the Taliban, Abu Sayyaf, and rebel groups in Africa. It notes that United Nations investigators working independently have documented the shipment of "hundreds of tons of arms to UNITA rebels in Angola, the government of President Charles Taylor in Liberia and several factions involved in the civil war in Congo." And, of particular interest to this House, it spells out the role that conflict diamonds play in an underground network that funds those weapons.

Mr. Speaker, at a hearing this month before a Senate Government Affairs Committee panel, Chairman DICK DURBIN and Senators MIKE DEWINE, RUSS FEINGOLD, JUDD GREGG, SUSAN COLLINS, and GEORGE VOINOVICH focused on the role conflict diamonds are playing in undermining the United States' efforts to freeze Al Qaeda's assets. As a witness from the State Department testified, "reports that terrorists may be buying and hoarding diamonds are cause for immense concern." I share this concern.

As you know, ending the trade in conflict diamonds has been a priority for me and Congressman FRANK WOLF, since we first met some of the victims of Sierra Leone's war over diamonds in 1999. Last year, we joined CHARLIE RANGEL and AMO HOUGHTON in pressing Congress to act against this blood trade and were proud to see the House approve our Clean Diamond Trade Act by an overwhelming margin.

Today, I commend the U.S. and Belgian authorities who are working to stop what probably is "the biggest weapons-trafficking network in the world." I salute Mr. Farah, who first broke this important story last year and has pursued it doggedly. And I urge everyone working on the problem of conflict diamonds to redouble their efforts. For the sake of the African victims of this blood trade, on behalf of Americans who deserve any protection from future terrorist attacks that our government can provide, and to ensure the legitimate industry is not penalized by the 10–15 percent of diamonds that are tainted by this scourge—this work must be finished.

ARREST AIDS PURSUIT OF WEAPONS NETWORK
(By Douglas Farah)

U.S. and European law enforcement officials say they have scored an important advance in their efforts to disrupt what some officials describe as the biggest weapons-trafficking network in the world, responsible for supplying the Taliban and terrorist groups from al Qaeda in Afghanistan to the Abu Sayyaf in the Philippines, as well as rebel forces in Africa.

For the past three years, U.S. intelligence agencies have covertly been trying to thwart the sprawling arms empire of Victor Bout's, a former Soviet military officer whose operation is based in the United Arab Emirates, according to U.S. and European officials. Bout's network is unique, U.S., British and U.N. investigators said, because of its ability to deliver sophisticated weapon systems virtually anywhere in the world.

A suspected top associate of Bout's is under arrest in Belgium, and investigators say he is providing fresh, inside information on how the arms network functions.

While Bout has long been suspected of supplying weapons to the Taliban, U.S. and European officials said intelligence gathered in recent months in Afghanistan and elsewhere has provided new details about his flights and deliveries in the months before the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States. The intelligence suggests he was flying weapons into Afghanistan more recently than had been believed, according to U.S. and U.N. officials familiar with the material.

Bout specialized in breaking arms embargoes around the world, according to four separate U.N. Security Council reports on weapons trafficking that were issued between December 2000 and last month. His activities were also described in interviews with U.S., British and U.N. investigators. He traffics almost exclusively in weapons bought in the former Soviet bloc, chiefly Bulgaria and Romania, according to these officials.

"There are a lot of people who can deliver arms to Africa or Afghanistan, but you can count on one hand those who can deliver major weapons systems rapidly," said Lee S. Wolosky, a former National Security Council official who led an interagency effort to shut down Bout's operations during the last two years of the Clinton administration. "Victor Bout is at the top of that list."

U.S. and European officials said the suspected top associate of Bout, Sanjivan Ruprah, was arrested in Belgium earlier this month on charges of criminal association and using a false passport.

Before the arrest, Ruprah, a Kenyan, had secretly been in contact with U.S. officials in recent months, providing them with information about Bout, according to U.S. officials and Ruprah's attorney. The U.S. officials said they were given no warning Ruprah was about to be arrested by the Belgians.

U.S. officials also said they had made no deal with Ruprah. They said that since the arrest, Ruprah has divulged more information about Bout's suspected arms pipeline to the Taliban, which ruled Afghanistan until last November, and al Qaeda, which the Taliban had sheltered there.

"We are very, very interested in this case because we understand Ruprah is talking about the supply of weapons to al Qaeda and the Taliban," said a senior U.S. official. "His basic line with us was that, while he had done some bad things, he didn't deal with al Qaeda and he understood that being linked to that now would be very, very bad."

Ruprah was especially valuable to Bout, U.S. and U.N. investigators said, because he was tied to the illicit diamond trade in West Africa and arranged for Bout to be paid for his weapons deliveries with diamonds from Sierra Leone, Congo and Angola.

Al Qaeda and other terrorist organizations have used an underground network that stretches across Africa to trade in diamonds, weapons and other valuable commodities.

Last year both Bout and Ruprah were placed on a U.N. list of individuals banned from international travel because of their ties to Liberia and the Sierra Leone rebel movement known as the Revolutionary United Front, or RUF.

Johan Peleman, a Belgian weapons expert who has investigated Bout for several years on behalf of the United Nations and has spoken regularly to Ruprah in recent months, said Ruprah was knowledgeable about Bout's financial dealings, especially in the diamond trade. Belgium is interested because Bout's financial network was based in Antwerp, the center of the world diamond trade.

Ruprah's attorney, Luc de Temmerman, said in a written statement that his client engaged only in legal activities in Africa. While acknowledging that Bout and Ruprah knew each other, he said they were not in business together.

De Temmerman said Ruprah had recently been in touch with the FBI, the CIA, the United Nations and British intelligence officials to provide them with information in an effort to have the U.N. travel ban on him lifted. He denied Ruprah knew anything about arms shipments to al Qaeda or the Taliban.

The U.N. reports said Bout originally based his operations in Ostend, Belgium, in 1995, and moved to the UAE in 1997 when Belgian officials began investigating his air freight operations.

The reports, compiled independently by separate groups of U.N. investigators monitoring U.N. embargoes, document Bout's shipments of hundreds of tons of arms to UNITA rebels in Angola, the government of President Charles Taylor in Liberia and several factions involved in the civil war in Congo. All are under U.N. weapons bans.

Ruprah was identified in U.N. reports as a key intermediary between Bout and Taylor. A December 2000 report said Ruprah was issued a Liberian diplomatic passport in the name of Samir M. Nasr, and was identified as Liberia's deputy commissioner for maritime affairs.

Ruprah helped arrange for three flights to Liberia in July and one in August 2000, the report said, delivering two combat-capable helicopters, surface-to-air missiles, armored vehicles, machine guns and almost a million rounds of ammunition. The weapons originated in Bulgaria.

U.S. and U.N. investigators say they believe Bout has also run guns for the radical Muslim Abu Sayyaf guerrilla movement in the Philippines and has flown weapons for Libyan leader Moammar Gaddafi.

"Victor Bout, as the largest player in the world in the illicit air logistics business, is a critical alder and abettor to criminal and terrorist organizations, rogue heads of state and insurgencies—whichever is able to pay," Wolosky said.

According to a U.N. Security Council report issued in April 2001, Bout is 35 years old. Bom in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, he is a graduate of Moscow's Military Institute of Foreign Languages and speaks six languages fluently, according to the report.

The report also describes Bout as a former air force officer who holds at least five passports. Investigators said Bout was known as the "Lone Wolf" because he operates by himself. They describe him as short, stocky and usually sporting a bushy mustache.

Telephone calls and faxes to Bout's offices in the UAE went unanswered. An associate of Bout's there said all of Bout's employees in the Emirates had left. The associate said he no longer knew where they were. Bout's brother Sergei, based in Islamabad, Pakistan, also did not return phone calls.

Bout has refused to talk to U.N. investigators or reporters.

He has a fleet of about 60 aircraft, including large Russian cargo planes, according to investigators. His operation is tied together by a complex web of overlapping airlines, charter companies and freight-forwarding operations that give him a global reach. His main company is registered as Air Cess.

In an effort to confound investigators, Bout continually changed the registration of his aircraft from one African country to another, all the while basing his air operations in Sharjah, one of seven emirates that make up the UAE.

Bout's alleged dealings with the Taliban and al Qaeda are the subject of an ongoing, classified U.S. operation that began in early 2000. "There was a concerted effort at the tail end of the Clinton administration, continued into the Bush administration, to put him out of business," said one former U.S. official.

U.N. and U.S. officials said Bout cut a deal with the Taliban in 1996 in UAE, one of only three countries in the world that recognized the regime.

The deal called for Bout's Air Cess to supply and service Afghanistan's Ariana Airways and the Afghan air force, both of which used Soviet-era aircraft. Another company that Bout had an interest in, Flying Dolphin, provided charter flights from Dubai to Afghanistan, the sources said, and soon there were several flights a week from Dubai to the Taliban stronghold of Kandahar.

U.N. investigators say they now believe many of those flights were loaded with weapons. When U.N. sanctions shut down Ariana in November 2000, Flying Dolphin obtained a U.N. waiver, for reasons that are not clear, and continued flying the Dubai-Kandahar route until being shut down by the United Nations in January 2001.

"Bout undoubtedly did supply al Qaeda and the Taliban with arms," Peter Hain, Britain's minister of European affairs and lead investigator into Bout's global arms trade, told the Associated Press on Feb. 19.

A 1998 Belgian intelligence report on Bout's activities, obtained by The Washington Post, says he made \$50 million in Afghanistan, selling heavy weapons to the Taliban. However, Peleman and other investigators said they had doubts that Bout had earned that much money from the Taliban and al Qaeda, in part because Bout also supplied weapons to anti-Taliban leaders, some of whom were his close friends.

Nonetheless, the United States launched an effort to disrupt Bout's arms trading, trying to freeze his assets and pressuring other nations, especially the UAE, to expel him. U.S. officials said they were limited in what they could do because they believed Bout had violated no U.S. laws. One of Bout's companies, Air Cess Inc., based in Miami, was dissolved on Sept. 19, according to public records, and its telephone number no longer works.

In late 2000 the Clinton administration asked the UAE at an "extremely high level" to shut down Bout's operation, a former U.S. official said. UAE officials repented that they had no evidence of criminal wrongdoing by Bout.

"We would have preferred they shut him down completely but they took helpful incremental steps that disrupted his operation," the source said, including imposing new and costly equipment requirements on his air fleet.

When President Bush took office, the Bout project received less attention, U.S. officials said. Then came the Sept. 11 attacks. "Suddenly, he was back on our radar screen in a very significant way," a senior U.S. official said. "His importance suddenly loomed very large."

HONORING COMMON THREADS AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sharon Clauss, Patricia Hillman, Roxie Moradian, Agnes Pelous, and Alice Peters on the occasion of their being awarded the 2002 Common Threads Award. Common Threads is a joint venture of the Agricultural Education Foundation, California State University, Fresno's College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, and AG ONE Foundation. The award is given to women in agriculture who have invested in their communities through community service and philanthropy. Honorees must live in Fresno, Kings, Madera, Merced, or Tulare County.

Sharon Clauss has been involved in dairy farming all her life. She and her husband, Richard, operate Clauss Dairy in Hilmar, California. Her support for agriculture and her community include active participation and financial contribution to numerous organizations including California Women for Agriculture, Agricultural Leadership Foundation, 4-H, Hilmar Covenant Church, and the American Jersey Cattle Association.

Pat (Heiskell) Hillman works with her family's farming businesses, Heiskell Family Farms and J.D. Heiskell & Co., in Tulare, California. She also volunteers with the World Ag Expo. Her involvement in her community spans six decades from co-founding of the Tulare County Symphony League in 1956 to being a founding docent of the Heritage Complex in 2000. Pat has also contributed to the Tulare Historical Museum and Society, First Congregational Church of Tulare, and Pro-Youth Tulare and Pro-Youth Visalia.

Roxie Moradian is a former owner of Penny-Newman Grain Company and has been involved in agriculture all her life. Her community service includes not only the Ag One Foundation at California State University, Fresno, with the founding of the Frank Moradian Foundation for Agriculture Scholarship for students, but also the Fresno County Library, Fresno Philharmonic Association, Saint Agnes and Valley Children's Hospitals, Salvation Army-Fresno, and many others.

Agnes Pelous began her ag life in Los Angeles County as the daughter of immigrant farmers from Italy. Agnes continued with farming when she married Alex Pelous and they relocated to Tulare County. She has been an active member in both the Orange County and Tulare County Farm Bureaus. Her other community involvement includes the Lindsay Hospital Guild, Las Madrasas Guild for Valley Children's Hospital, Parent Teacher Association, Tulare County Cotton Women, Tulare County 4-H, California Women for Agriculture, among many others.

Alice Peters and her husband, Leon, owned and farmed orchards in the Fowler, California, area for many years and owned Valley Foundry which was connected to agriculture throughout the world. Alice has been active in many community service organizations including the Fresno Philharmonic, Valley Public Radio, Fresno Metropolitan Museum, and Fresno City and County Historical Societies. The School of Business at California State University, Fresno named their auditorium in her honor.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sharon Clauss, Pat Hillman, Roxie Moradian, Agnes Pelous, and Alice Peters for receiving the 2002 Common Threads Award. I invite my colleagues to join me in commending these outstanding women for their commitment to community service and agriculture and wishing them many more years of continued success.

COMMEMORATION OF THE CHINESE NEW YEAR

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, Chinese American communities across this nation have gathered to celebrate the Chinese New Year. This lunar new year celebration is a special and important time for all Chinese Americans.

China is a country rich in traditional and religious holidays, but none are comparable to the New Year festivities. The New Year is a time for celebration, reflection and most importantly, family. The renewal and strengthening of family ties during this important time is not only essential to the Chinese community, but to America as a whole. In a period that has been difficult for so many of us, I am particularly moved by the Chinese New Year's emphasis on peace and happiness. We should all be well served by following such a tradition.

Our country has been greatly enriched by the many Americans of Chinese descent who have brought with them such rich customs. Michigan is fortunate to have had thousands of Chinese Americans make our great state their new home.

Mr. Speaker, in the Year of the Horse, I join the Chinese American community in celebrating this most joyous New Year or Bainian. I salute all of them for the tremendous contributions to freedom and human dignity which they have made.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO TONY FORTINO

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize an extraordinary man who embodies the spirit of my district in Colorado and whose contributions to society have been honored with his induction into the Pueblo Hall of Fame. Tony Fortino is a pillar of the Pueblo, Colorado community and has dedicated countless hours to the betterment of his beloved city. As Tony celebrates his achievement, I would like to commend him for his commitment to his fellow citizens and community.

Tony's service to the City of Pueblo began when Tony took it upon himself to promote Pueblo's Downtown business corridor and the city itself. He served in leadership positions in the Greater Pueblo Chamber of Commerce, the Pueblo Economic Development Corporation and the Pueblo Development Foundation. His hard work ethic pushes him to take the initiative and provide leadership on projects, as

he has done with the Pueblo Convention Center and the Downtown Hotel. Tony's leadership abilities shine through in his position as chairman of the Pueblo Urban Renewal Authority and as Pueblo's representative on the Colorado Transportation Commission.

Tony served his country as a member of the Coast Guard in World War II. After the war, he came back to Pueblo and began a successful career operating a car dealership and as a commercial real estate investor. After his retirement, Tony generously gave to the Sangre de Cristo Arts and Conference Center and the Catholic Diocese of Pueblo Foundation. He has also helped to raise money for Pueblo Community College and serves as a member and chairman of the PCC Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Tony Fortino is a man of unparalleled dedication, evident through his efforts to improve the City of Pueblo, and his philanthropic contributions. It is his unrelenting passion for each and every thing he does, as well as his spirit of honesty and integrity that I wish to bring before this body of Congress. Tony Fortino is a remarkable man, who has achieved extraordinary deeds in his community, and I would like to extend to him my congratulations on his induction to the Pueblo Hall of Fame and wish Tony Fortino the best in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO BASEBALL GREAT
MICKEY VERNON

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I want to pay tribute today to legendary baseball batting champ Mickey Vernon who will be honored during Strath Haven High School's presentation of "Damn Yankees" at its spring musical production in Wallingford, Pennsylvania on Saturday, March 2, 2002. Music Director, John Shankweiler, selected this work as a tribute to Wallingford-Swarthmore School District residents Mr. and Mrs. James "Mickey" Vernon.

For the past fifty years, Mickey and Libby, his wife of over 60 years, have called Wallingford their home. However, it must be pointed out that Mickey Vernon is one of the favorite native sons of my hometown of Marcus Hook, Pennsylvania. Mickey Vernon is a hero in my hometown. Marcus Hook is a close-knit, working-class town on the Delaware River. The people of Marcus Hook have community spirit and have much cause for civic pride. One of the unifying bonds in our hometown is our great pride in the career and achievements of Mickey Vernon. In the ballparks of Marcus Hook the name of Mickey Vernon is revered. Even today, more than thirty years after his retirement, kids in Marcus Hook still play ball in the Mickey Vernon Little League.

Mickey Vernon, one of baseball's greatest first basemen of all time has earned a special place in the annals of baseball history. Mickey played twenty-one years in the big leagues, thirteen of those in our Nation's Capital where he played for the Washington Senators. He was known as a slick-fielding lefthanded first baseman with a short, compact lefty swing.

In 1946, Mickey won the first of his two American League batting titles, hitting 0.353

while banging out a league-leading 51 doubles and knocking in 85 runs. He won a second Silver Bat in 1953, when he again lead the league with a 0.337 average and 43 doubles. That year, he also smashed 15 home runs and drove in a career-best 115 runs.

For his career, Mickey batted 0.286, drove in 1,311 runs, and hit 490 doubles. He played in seven All-Star games, and held career records for first basemen in assists, put-outs, chances, and games played, 2,237. He was durable and consistent, playing 115 or more games for 14 straight years.

Typical of many ballplayers of his era, Mickey lost two years in the prime of his career, 1944-45, because he answered his country's call to service during World War II. When we honor individuals like Mickey Vernon we promote the essence of what is good and wholesome in our Nation. Individuals like Mickey Vernon represent the essence of courage and endurance—the qualities that helped make our Nation great. He is a true American hero in every sense of the word.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mickey Vernon for his outstanding career and his major league contributions to baseball, to his community, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and to the Nation with best wishes as well to his wife, Libby.

HONORING THE BORDER TEXAN
OF THE YEAR, SENATOR PHIL
GRAMM

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend, the senior Senator from the great State of Texas, who on Thursday, February 28, will be named the "Border Texan of the Year."

Every year, the people of Hidalgo County, Texas, whom I represent, hold an annual Borderfest. This is a wonderful time where the diversity, culture, music and food of the region are celebrated and enjoyed. The highlight of the festival is the presentation of the Border Texan of the Year Award. I am very pleased that this year's recipient is a man of such distinction, whom I admire and respect and with whom I have enjoyed working with in the United States Congress.

Senator GRAMM has served the State of Texas with distinction both as a member of the House and as a United States Senator since 1978. He will truly be missed in Washington once he leaves us at the end of this year, but I am confident that his service to Texas will not be ending.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Senator GRAMM for many years, and we have collaborated across party lines to improve conditions throughout our state and especially in my South Texas region on such projects as transportation and infrastructure, including improving our bridges and roads.

Senator GRAMM and I have jointly introduced legislation to vastly improve the efficiency of the U.S. Customs Service along the U.S./Mexico border, thus increasing the flow of goods and services between the two countries. The residents of South Texas experience daily the long lines at our border crossings.

Despite heroic sacrifices by Customs personnel, who work long hours and enormous amounts of overtime, there are just not enough people to make our southern border work efficiently. Before Senator GRAMM leaves the U.S. Senate, I am hopeful that we can win our fight to bring much-needed resources to our southern border.

Infrastructure is vital for economic growth and prosperity and Senator GRAMM has recognized this and has worked hard to improve border infrastructure. His dedication to secure highway funding and particularly his efforts to help secure a Presidential permit for the construction of the new Anzalduas International Bridge is greatly appreciated by all border Texans.

As Senator GRAMM leaves the Senate, I wish him much success in his future endeavors.

HONORING SYDNEY ALDERMAN
PERRY FOR OUTSTANDING
SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to join the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven in honoring an outstanding member of our community and my good friend, Sydney Alderman Perry. Sydney has been the Director of the Department of Jewish Education for over a decade and has made many invaluable contributions to the Jewish Federation during her tenure.

I have often spoke of our nation's need for talented, creative educators ready to help our children learn and grow. Sydney is a true reflection of this ideal. In the twelve years that she has served as the Director of the Department of Jewish Education, Sydney has worked diligently to improve the synagogue supplementary schools and has initiated a number of education programs for both adults and teens.

In developing "A Taste of Honey" and its offshoots, "A Taste of Milk and Honey" and "A Taste of Apples and Honey," Sydney created new and exciting educational programming for adults and teens. She spearheaded the Israel Experience Savings program, which helps young people travel to Israel and she initiated Talmud Torah Meyuchad, an individualized Jewish education program for children with special needs. She is also responsible for the development of Midrasha, a new adult institute, and the successful community Hebrew High School, MAKOM, which serves three hundred and fifty teens throughout the New Haven area.

In addition to her work in education, Sydney has also dedicated her time and energy to the Jewish Federation. For the past six years, she has served as the Associate Executive Director of the Federation and is presently the Acting Director. In this position, Sydney serves on the Long Range Planning committee; helps staff the Community Relations Council and leadership development; supervises the Holocaust Education-Prejudice Reduction Project, Stepping Stones, and the new library at the Jewish Community Center; and acts as an advocate for Jewish continuity. She has served as a consultant to the community on educational endeavors, including the Anne Frank

Project, Shepherd '92, Jerusalem 3000 and the celebration of Israel's 50th Anniversary. Sydney is an extraordinary scholar, often called upon nationally to give workshops and has served as scholar-in-residence for several communities.

Sydney has shown an unparalleled dedication to Jewish education in our community and throughout the nation—a commitment that is reflected in the myriad of awards she has been honored with over the years. I am proud to join her husband, Ted, her children, grandchildren, family, friends, and colleagues in extending my sincere thanks and appreciation to Sydney Alderman Perry for her outstanding service to our community. She is a true inspiration!

COMMEMORATION OF THE MUSLIM HOLIDAY OF EID UL-ADHA

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, as we approach the completion of the Hajj, I want to extend my heartfelt greetings to the nearly seven million Muslims in America and the more than one billion Muslims worldwide celebrating a blessed Eid ul-Adha.

This most sacred holiday reminds us all of an important lesson. The Eid commemorates Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son Ishmael in obedience to God. God, in His great wisdom and mercy, allowed the angel Gabriel to substitute a lamb as Abraham's offering, and Ishmael was spared. I am told the meat of the sacrificed lamb prepared for this feast is to be divided three ways: one third for the household, one third for relatives, and one third for the poor. It is this spirit of mercy and generosity that is most needed today.

As millions of faithful around the world join together for the conclusion of yet another remarkable pilgrimage to Mecca, there is also great reflection as we all seek to better understand the turmoil of the past few months. We all share grief and sorrow over the attacks of September 11. But partly as a testament to the hard work of the American Muslim community, I believe Americans are growing increasingly aware of Islam as a great religion of tolerance and peace.

This has been a difficult time for all Americans, especially Muslims. Not only did the Muslim community lose loved ones in the attacks like every other community in America, but they also suffered a backlash of suspicion, bigotry and violence. As time passes, it becomes increasingly clear that our nation has rejected such intolerance.

However, our struggle for justice continues. As we work to oppose secret evidence, profiling, and the disparate impact some of the measures adopted after September 11 have had on the Arab American and American Muslim community, we are working to protect the very ideals on which this great country was founded.

Mr. Speaker, as Muslim families celebrate Eid ul-Adha, let us remember the strength and discipline that faith offers each of us, and recommit ourselves to the sacrifices that life and justice might demand in the coming year.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOHN W.
RAWLINGS

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and honor an extraordinary man who embodied the spirit of my district in Colorado and whose contributions to society have gone unrecognized for far too long. John W. Rawlings was a pillar of the Las Animas community but far too few remember his services. Fortunately, a donation recently made by this man's loving son will ensure that John W. Rawling's accomplishments and generosity will never be forgotten.

Robert H. Rawlings, the current Pueblo Chieftain Publisher, remembers his father, John, as a kind, generous, and distinguished man. In order to preserve John's memory Robert has donated \$150,000 in John's name to the Las Animas museum project. The project will help to move the Kit Carson Museum from outside of Las Animas to Main Street in this historic district. The new museum will be named in John Rawlings' honor.

John Rawlings spent his childhood in Monte Vista in Colorado's beautiful San Luis Valley. In high school, John was a star football player, basketball player, and a top student. In the evenings, he worked as a janitor for the school to help support his family. John's hard work paid off and he won a full scholarship to Colorado College. After college, John served his country in World War I and was honored with officer training. He served in France in the 341st Field Artillery 89th division and was promoted to the rank of second lieutenant.

John's career in banking began in 1920, and 21 years later he became the president of First National Bank of Las Animas. John's hard work and leadership skills were honored during his lifetime with roles in many organizations including the Southeastern Colorado Clearing House Association and the Colorado Bankers Association. John also served his community as the president of the Las Animas Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Las Animas Lions Club, and a commander of the Monte Vista post of the American Legion.

After John's death in 1959, he was named "The Outstanding Citizen of the Area" and was greatly mourned by a loving family and grateful community. His dedication to excellence and his fellow man certainly deserves the attention of this body of Congress. Although it is certain that John's family and his community still miss him dearly, we hope that the new museum will keep the memory of this kind and generous man alive and intact for the future. Thanks John for your contributions to this nation.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE
CLEOTILDE "DING" GOULD

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, Chamorro culture lost one of its most ardent advocates with the recent passing of Cleotilde "Ding"

Castro Gould at the age of 71. An inspiring mentor who touched a lot of people through her kindness, warmth, and humor, Mrs. Gould was a woman who lived by a set of lofty ideals and a firm commitment to the island she loved so much.

Primarily known as an educator and as a specialist on Chamorro language and culture, Mrs. Gould played a key role in the formation of the Guam Department of Education's Chamorro language and Culture program. She served as the program's director until her retirement several years ago. The program, which greatly progressed under her guidance, has rekindled interest on Chamorro culture as well as the recent rebirth and rejuvenation of the Chamorro language on Guam. It was under her leadership that the Chamorro language program became part of the curriculum of the public schools in Guam. She was the advocate who spoke to the political leadership about requiring the teaching of the Chamorro language. She was the expert who used the Chamorro language in ways no one else could match. She was the teacher whose enthusiasm inspired an entire generation of Chamorro language teachers.

In addition to her administrative capacities, Mrs. Gould also made significant contributions to the body of Chamorro music and literature that we have today. Her many talents included that of singing, songwriting and creative writing. In addition to having been an accomplished performer of Kantan Chamorrta (Chamorro Songs), she has also been credited for several compositions made popular by local island personalities. In the 1980's, she also produced a video documentary of the Kantan Chamorrta song form which is the ancient call-and-response impromptu song form practiced today by only a few remaining artists.

Mrs. Gould was also the writer and creator of the Juan Malimanga comic strip. A daily feature in the Pacific Daily News, Guam's daily newspaper, the strip and its characters embody the Chamorro perspective and our local tendency to use humor either to get points across or to express criticism in a witty and non-confrontational manner.

It was, however, her talent as a storyteller that endeared her to many. For more than four decades, her captivating voice and gestures enthralled the imagination of her audience. Her great talent in conveying ancient Chamorro legends to the younger generation has placed great demand on her skills throughout the island's many schools. Mrs. Gould also represented the island as a storyteller in a Pacific islands tour sponsored by the Consortium of Pacific Arts and Cultures and she employed the same talent in 1988 as part of the Guam delegation to the Pacific Festival of Arts in Australia. She has been honored by the people of Guam as a master storyteller, a great honor in Pacific island cultures.

Through her song lyrics, the comical situations she had developed, and the lessons brought forth by her storytelling, Mrs. Gould touched a generation of children, young adults and students. Her exceptional ability to communicate with people from a wide range of age and educational backgrounds enabled her to pass on the values and standards of our elders to the younger generation. Dedicating her life towards the preservation of our island's culture and traditions, she became one of my

best friends and favorite colleagues in the field of education. She represents the best in that indomitable Chamorro spirit.

The passing of Mrs. Gould has left in me a deep sense of personal loss. I have known Mrs. Gould for over 25 years as a fellow professional and advocate for the survival of the Chamorro language and culture. I worked with her in the Chamorro Language and Culture Program, as a fellow commissioner in the Chamorro Language Commission and as a fellow activist in a number of activities pertaining to Guam's indigenous language and culture. She was a warm, caring woman whose impact on the island will not be forgotten. She had a special place in her heart and home for people who needed help. She took in people and helped them if they were in trouble, inspired them if they needed a lift and set them on the right path. It was this part of her life which gave her the greatest joy and where she felt she had the greatest impact.

I take great comfort with the knowledge that her legacy will live on and will forever be cherished by the people of Guam. I join her family, especially her daughter, Sandy; her son-in-law, Brian; her grandchildren, Silas Alexander and Bella Cleotilde; and her reared son, Rick, who, along with the people of Guam, mourn this great loss and, at the same time, celebrate the life and work of a great friend, colleague, loving mother, respected pioneer and staunch advocate of the Chamorro culture. Adios, Ding.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF LIEUTENANT KENNETH R. DOLL OF THE MILPITAS POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, on February 26, 2002, the Milpitas Police Department will celebrate the retirement of one of its finest officers, Lieutenant Kenneth Doll.

Lieutenant Doll began his law enforcement career after his separation from the United States Navy as a highly decorated serviceman. He is the recipient of the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross, Vietnamese Civil Action Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, and eight air medals, as well as a Presidential Unit Commendation and a National Defense Medal. He joined the Milpitas Police Department on November 1, 1971, as the first Patrol Officer. He then advanced to Police Officer status in May of 1973, Corporal in August of 1979, Sergeant in May of 1982, and was promoted to Lieutenant in October of 1998. During his 30-year career, he has worked or supervised Patrol, Traffic Investigations, Community Relations, and Youth Services. For 26 years, he has been directly involved in the SWAT and Firearms program, and is responsible for a \$250,000 Range development project, which is nearing completion. Lieutenant Doll has also represented the City and Department in athletic competitions throughout the state in the Police Olympics, the World Police and Fire Games, and the LAPD's Toughest Cop Alive competition, placing second in his age category twice.

I am honored to join the colleagues of Lieutenant Kenneth Doll in commending him for

his many years of dedicated and exemplary service to law enforcement. He has left his indelible mark of excellence on the Milpitas Police Department.

HONORING ST. EDWARD CHURCH AND SCHOOL OF NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY AND FATHER JOSEPH PATRICK BREEN FOR 40 YEARS OF SERV- ICE IN THE PRIESTHOOD

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I am particularly honored to rise today to add my voice to so many of the people in Nashville and throughout Tennessee who are taking the time this week to honor St. Edward Church and School—which is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2002—and its pastor, Father Joseph Patrick Breen—who recently marked his 40th year in the priesthood. That these two milestones in the spiritual life of Nashville occur together is more than appropriate, because both St. Edward Catholic Church and Father Breen have been such tremendous positive influences in the lives of the people of Nashville.

A native of Nashville, Joe Pat Breen—one of nine children born to the late Paul and Anna Nenon Breen—attended Christ the King School and was graduated from Father Ryan High School. He entered St. Ambrose College in Davenport, Iowa, and began his seminary training there in 1956. He was awarded his bachelors degree in 1958; and in the same year he entered North American College in Rome to pursue his graduate studies in theology. Father Breen was ordained a priest on December 20, 1961, at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. He later returned to Rome to study theology at the Gregorian University; and in 1978, he was granted a license in sacred theology.

Following his ordination, Father Breen served a number of parishes in Tennessee, in Nashville (the Cathedral of the Incarnation), Memphis, Millington, Bartlett, Chattanooga and Cleveland (and its missions in Copperhill and Athens). In addition to being a priest, he was an educator, teaching at Christian Brothers High School in Memphis and Notre Dame High School in Chattanooga. In 1974, Father Breen was named pastor of St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Murfreesboro and served there for 10 years. During his service in Murfreesboro—a time of unprecedented growth in that community—the church there more than kept pace, increasing in members and in its impact on the life of the city.

Since July of 1984, nearly 18 years, Father Breen has been pastor at St. Edward Church and the principal at St. Edward School. Under his leadership, the parishioners of St. Edward Parish have been inspired to give even more of their time, talent and financial support to make St. Edward an excellent place to worship and to receive an excellent education. This parish is a strong, highly committed community—and the depth of that commitment is demonstrated every day in the community life of Nashville, Tennessee.

Knowing the value of Christian education, Father Breen turned his attention immediately

to the school with full force—and it showed: new paint, lighting, structural improvements, compliance with fire and city codes, and an upgraded curriculum including a computer center and full-time computer teacher. In 1999, a capital campaign was launched to raise funds for a new addition to the school for a pre-kindergarten program. A new church office, rectory and primary wing of the school were built. Last year, teachers moved into new classrooms. Today, St. Edward Church serves more than 1,100 families, and school enrollment has grown to 441 students from pre-kindergarten through eighth grade.

This kind of progress is no accident. St. Edward is a parish of wonderful people—people who love God, their country, their families and their community. And they love their pastor—Father Joe Pat Breen. They love him because he loves them, and they can tell.

Father Breen was quoted recently in this way: "As a priest, you had better be close to your blood family, you have to be intimate with several good friends, and try to be a very special part of the family of the parish." Father Breen succeeds in that mission. No one who encounters him can help but be touched by his deep compassion for others, can fail to be impressed with his devotion to his calling, can leave him without a feeling that something or someone greater than themselves is at work in the world. Father Breen does not traffic in sentimentalism—he deals with a world that includes both great joys and deep pain, and he does so, as much as any person can, with the decency and genuine concern and desire to help others that his faith—the faith of millions of Christians all over the world—demands.

Mr. Speaker, Father Joe Breen is a respected and beloved priest, a successful educator, a mentor to the young, and an inspiration to all that know him. He is a fine and good man. He leads a successful and forward-looking church. I am proud that he is making a difference for the better in Nashville; and, as I said at the beginning of my remarks, I am honored to pay tribute to him and to every member of the St. Edward parish.

HONORING AARON ARONOW ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to extend my very best wishes to Aaron Aronow as he celebrates his 80th birthday. Aaron has been a fixture in our hometown of New Haven, Connecticut for as long as I can remember and it is my honor to pay tribute to his lifetime of contributions to our community.

Throughout his life, Aaron has demonstrated a unique dedication and commitment to the City of New Haven through community service. Our communities would not be the same without those individuals who volunteer their time to make a difference—especially those who expend their energies shaping public policy. He served on the New Haven Board of Alderman for sixteen years, many of which he served along side my mother. Today, he continues in his service as a Ward Chair and a

dedicated member of New Haven's Democratic Town Committee. Aaron is a former member of the City Plan Commission and is currently a member of the City's Disability Commission. Throughout his many years in New Haven's political arena, he has and continues to be a reflection of all that a public servant should be.

Though enjoying retirement from his fifty-year career as an executive with Robby Len Industries, a women's bathing suit manufacturer, Aaron continues to stay extremely active. He is an avid student, continuing to learn through the variety of senior courses offered at our local colleges and universities. He and his wife, Mitzi, recently celebrated their fifty-ninth wedding anniversary and enjoy spending time with their three children and four grandchildren. I am also told that he spends a great deal of time playing with his favorite family member, Tina—the family dog.

Aaron Aronow has remained committed to serving in his community. He is an active member of B'nai B'rith and is currently involved with Congregation Beth Israel in the restoration of the historic Orchard Street Synagogue. This synagogue, one of the oldest in New Haven, was once part of our vibrant Jewish community. In restoring this cultural landmark, Aaron hopes that it will once again become a central meeting place for New Haven families.

As family and friends gather to wish him well, I am sure Aaron will take a moment to reflect on his lifetime of achievements. I am so proud to have this opportunity to extend my deepest thanks and appreciation to Aaron Aronow for his many contributions to our community and to join his many friends and family in wishing him a very happy 80th birthday!

COMMEMORATION OF LITHUANIAN INDEPENDENCE

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, Lithuanian American communities across this nation will be gathering this week to reflect and celebrate the 84th year commemorating Lithuanian independence. In Southfield, Michigan, this community will be gathering on Sunday, February 10, 2002 at the Lithuanian Cultural Center.

On February 16, 1918 the Lithuanian people proclaimed an independent state ruled by the people, free from German military control. For most of the 20th century, however, authoritarian regimes prevented Lithuanian nationalists from enjoying the fruits of liberty and democracy. In 1990, after five decades of oppression under Soviet control and a relentless passion for freedom and democracy, the Lithuanian people once again proclaimed their independence.

The United States' relationship with Lithuania is strong and growing stronger. Today Lithuanian and American leaders, governments and people are able to enjoy a great partnership. A significant goal of this partnership is the commitment to the security of the Baltic region and the promotion of democracy and freedom around the world. To achieve this goal, the Republic of Lithuania is making great economic, social and political progress in an

effort to secure membership to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. The role of NATO in preserving peace and stability in the Euro-Atlantic area is essential for all people; Lithuanians must not be the exception.

Mr. Speaker, I join the people of Lithuania, those of Lithuanian ancestry around the world and Lithuanian Americans in celebrating the 84th Anniversary of Lithuanian Independence. I salute all of them for the tremendous contributions to freedom and human dignity which they have made.

IN HONOR OF BLAKE HASELTON

HON. KEN LUCAS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. LUCAS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Blake Haselton. Mr. Haselton is Superintendent of Oldham County Schools, a district which lies in Kentucky's 4th Congressional District, which I represent.

Last month, Mr. Haselton was named Superintendent of the Year by the Kentucky Association of School Superintendents. He is also being considered for National Superintendent of the Year by the American Association of School Administrators.

Since he began in Oldham County in 1973, Mr. Haselton has served as a high school biology teacher, athletic director, director of guidance services, and principal. He also served as the district's director of pupil personnel before being named superintendent in 1991.

His colleagues praise him as an education leader who is "stays on top of both the academic and financial elements of operating a school system," and "makes his decisions on what's best for kids." The Oldham County Teachers Association says Mr. Haselton is everything teachers want in a superintendent: child-centered, focused on teachers' needs, and an aggressive planner. The chair of the Oldham County Board of Education says Mr. Haselton is a "leader amongst leaders . . . a master teacher" who "Inspires the best in others."

Mr. Haselton also serves his community by doing volunteer work for several recreational, civic, and scouting organizations.

I rise today to congratulate Blake Haselton on being named Kentucky Superintendent of the Year, and to wish him well as he vies for the national. I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Mr. Haselton for his nearly three decades of outstanding service to the people of Oldham County, Kentucky.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ROBERT L. BRAY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize an outstanding individual from Grand Junction, Colorado. Over the years, Robert L. Bray has distinguished himself as a business executive, a community leader, and a vital participant in maintaining our civic responsibilities through-

out the region. Robert's achievements are impressive, and it is my honor to recognize several of those accomplishments today. Robert is a generous soul whose good deeds and actions certainly deserve the recognition he has recently received.

Robert is the owner and operator of Bray and Co./GMAC Real Estate in Grand Junction, a successful business he has run for years. He has carried on a long tradition of quality guidance and service to his many clients in the area, resulting in a busy operation dedicated to remaining true to high standards of honesty and integrity. His success in the industry has led to several honors including the revamping of the developmental codes in the city, allowing residents to build in areas beneficial to the community residents and businesses.

Throughout his success, Robert and wife Vicky, have remained active in their community that has provided his business the resources to prosper throughout its history. They have actively volunteered their time and energies to community organizations such as Hilltop Community Resources, the Mesa County Library, as well as devoted their efforts to the continuation of a prosperous education system in their volunteer work with Mesa State College.

Mr. Speaker, Robert Bray's achievements have recently been rewarded by his community through the Grand Junction Chamber of Commerce. The chamber named Robert the Citizen of the Year, an award given to an outstanding and well deserving individual who has selflessly given of themselves to directly benefit their community. It is now my honor to congratulate Robert on his most recent and well-deserved award from this organization by bringing his good deeds to the attention of this body of Congress, and this nation. Robert, you have been a model citizen for Grand Junction and I extend my thanks for your efforts. Keep up the good work and good luck to you and your wife Vicky in your future endeavors.

HONORING CHRISTIAN HIT RADIO WAY-FM'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor radio station WAYM-FM 88.7 on the occasion of its 10th Anniversary.

"WAY-FM," the name by which it is best known, has truly made a difference in the lives of countless individuals throughout Middle Tennessee, and indeed, across the Nation on its national network of radio stations.

I first became acquainted with WAY-FM through my daughters, Elizabeth and Rachel Clement, who loved to listen to the music of Contemporary Christian artists such as D.C. Talk, Third Day, Sonicflood, and Jennifer Knapp over the airwaves. Upon a personal visit to the station, I was immediately impressed with the work and mission of the staff and its uplifting vision to impact the lives of children, teenagers, college students and adults, under the moniker: "WAY-FM, it is not just a radio station, it is a ministry."

Robert "Bob" and Felice Augsburg founded WAY-FM Media Group, Inc. in 1985. In the

beginning, WAY-FM Media Group's sole purpose was to oversee the formation and operation of WAYJ, a non-commercial radio station in Fort Myers, Florida. The Board of Directors possessed a strong desire to establish a positive Christian radio alternative for the area youth and young adults. The impact of the new format was profound and immediate, resulting in tremendous growth.

In the early 1990's, Bob Augsburg visited Nashville to garner and gauge support for a WAY-FM station in Nashville. Finding a foundation of support, Augsburg formulated a team and as a result, WAYM Nashville officially signed on the air on March 11, 1992 from studios in Franklin.

The expansion of the ministry into Middle Tennessee and Northern Alabama enabled WAY-FM to broaden its mission of using radio to encourage youth and young adults in their Christian walk and to challenge them to make a difference in the world. Providing music as well as inspirational content, the station regularly opens its doors to area church youth groups allowing them to play guest deejay for a night. It also offers call-in programming for teens in crisis, numerous outreach programs and missions trips.

Community involvement is not only a priority, to the ministry of 88.7 WAY-FM, it is a core value. WAY-FM has sponsored many community events over the past ten years including record breaking food, blood, and winter clothing drives; collecting cell phones for S.A.V.E. (Survivors Against Violent Environments); promoting and sponsoring numerous concert events and free Brown Bag concerts; making van appearances at countless community events; providing mission trip opportunities for listeners; and most recently collecting several thousand Valentine's Day cards for the children at Madison Children's Home. All of these activities are in addition to the on air presence of sharing God's love and power through music, interviews and daily scripture readings. WAY-FM believes in the work of local churches and supports their efforts through free Public Service Announcements.

In the spring of 1998, WAY-FM began a fund drive to build a new facility to an outpouring of assistance from the community. This Brentwood location was completed in October 1999 with a move in to a virtually debt free facility due in part to the tremendous support of listeners and area businesses.

WAY-FM has achieved success throughout Tennessee winning local awards for its quality programming, as well as awards from national organizations such as the Gospel Music Association (GMA) for Station of the Year honors. Its signal is now broadcast across the Southeastern United States and on satellite via Sky Angel, with expansion to the Western United States expected in the near future.

May WAY-FM continue to grow and prosper as it changes lives through the ministry of music in the years to come.

HONORING THE INAUGURATION OF BISHOP JERRY WAYNE MACKLIN TO THE EPISCOPAL OFFICE OF JURISDICTIONAL BISHOP OF THE NORCAL METROPOLITAN JURISDICTION OF THE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the elevation of Bishop J.W. Macklin to the Episcopal Office of Jurisdictional Bishop of the NorCal Metropolitan Jurisdiction of the Church of God in Christ.

Bishop Macklin, a native of San Mateo, California, founded the Glad Tidings Church of God in Christ in 1978 in Hayward, California. The neighborhood of South Hayward, once riddled with crime, drug use and violence, was in need of someone to challenge the hearts of citizens and improve the community's conditions. Bishop Macklin was a perfect match. As a result of his role in preaching the gospel, creating an innovative ministry, and networking in the community, the neighborhood has undergone a dramatic transformation, and is known today as the Glad Tidings Community Campus.

Bishop Macklin also serves the Church of God in Christ as Chairman of the Auxiliaries in Ministry Convention in Memphis, Tennessee. In that position, he presides over the Church's Summer Convention, which draws more than 20,000 delegates. In the past, he has served as president of the International Sunday School Department, and as a member of the Publishing Board for the National Church of God in Christ.

A wide variety of groups have come forward to show their gratitude for Bishop Macklin's distinguished dedication to the ministry and his community. He has been the recipient of numerous citations, honors, special recognitions, and awards. These include the John Pappas Humanitarian Award, Bay Area's Most Influential Black Religious Leader, outstanding Leadership and Community Service from the City of Hayward, NAACP, Hayward Unified School District, Alameda County Board of Supervisors, California State Legislature, and the Congress of National Black Churches.

In addition to the many honors and awards Bishop Macklin has received, he also established Northern California's Community Development, a non-profit housing corporation for South Hayward revitalization, and the Institute for Success, Welfare to Work Program for Southern Alameda County. His continual involvement in these programs demonstrates his dedication to enhancing community life and helping to improve individual lives.

I am honored to join the colleagues of Bishop J.W. Macklin in commending him for his many years of dedicated and exemplary service to the Church of God in Christ. He has left his indelible mark of excellence on the South Hayward community.

HONORING DETECTIVE RAY KERN

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Detective Ray Kern on the occasion of his retirement from the Madera County Sheriff's Department. Detective Kern retired January 2, 2002, after 32½ years in law enforcement, 28 of those years with the Madera County Sheriff's Department.

Detective Ray Kern started his career in law enforcement with the Chowchilla Police Department in June of 1969. In December of 1973 he began working for the Madera County Sheriff's Department. After working in the jail for eighteen months, Ray Kern was transferred to the mountain division working patrol. In 1982, he was assigned to work in the Detective's Unit. The last several years of his career he also worked with the Sheriff's Department Search and Rescue.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend Detective Ray Kern for an exemplary career of service in law enforcement. I encourage my colleagues to join me in congratulating Detective Kern on his retirement and wishing him many more years of continued success.

HONORING POLICE CHIEF KENNETH CRUZ OF GUILFORD ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding member of the Guilford community and a dear friend, Kenneth Cruz, Chief of the Guilford Police Department on the occasion of his retirement. He has been an active member of the law enforcement community for over three decades and has served with the utmost dedication and integrity.

Recent times have brought a renewed public respect for our nation's law enforcement officials and the very real dangers they face. From the tragic events of Columbine to the devastating attacks of September 11, the skill, dedication and commitment of our law enforcement officials has been tested. From these tragedies lessons have been learned and higher expectations have been made for those who dedicate their lives to protecting our communities. In these times, we have looked to our police officers for guidance and reassurance.

Chief Cruz started his career with the New Haven Police Department in 1968 where he served for sixteen years. In that time, he achieved the rank of commander and left to accept an appointment as Chief of the Guilford Police Department where he spent the remainder of his career. He was elected President of the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association, a statewide organization that diligently promotes the needs of Connecticut's law enforcement community. During his tenure he worked with state and federal legislators to ensure that the voices of Connecticut's police officers were heard.

In addition to his professional career, Chief Cruz made it a priority to be actively involved in Guilford and the surrounding communities. Under his leadership, the Guilford Police Department was one of the first departments to join the efforts of the Yale Child Study Center and its Child Development Community Policing program. This program is designed to address issues of domestic violence, child abuse, and juvenile justice in a way which focuses on community, partnership, innovation and prevention—four elements which are all too often missing from our response to violent crime. By participating in annual conferences and sharing ideas and successes with leaders from other areas, these efforts have made a real difference in the lives of thousands of children who otherwise would fall through the cracks of our system.

With all of his work, at the Department and in the community, Chief Cruz still made time to be of great assistance to myself and my staff. He has been an invaluable resource to us all and I want to extend my deepest thanks and sincere appreciation for all of his support.

Chief Kenneth Cruz has demonstrated an unparalleled commitment and has left an indelible mark on the Town of Guilford—he will be missed. As he celebrates his retirement, I am proud to rise today to join his wife, Virginia; daughter, Dawn; his three grandchildren, family, friends, and colleagues in wishing him the very best for many more years of health and happiness.

IN HONOR OF WALTON-VERONA,
KY, INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

HON. KEN LUCAS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. LUCAS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Walton-Verona Independent School System, in Kentucky's Fourth Congressional District, which I represent.

The school district has set a state record by not having a dropout in three years. In that same time period, 209 students have graduated. And once again this year, nobody has dropped out, and 76 more students are on track to graduate in May.

As part of the district's anti-truancy program, the school attendance officer, who is a sheriff's deputy, checks on students who are truant for two consecutive days. The deputy actually goes to the student's home and takes the student to school in a marked cruiser. Also, a retired principal works with families to help solve problems that often lead students to drop out, such as health problems, eating disorders, pregnancy, and divorce.

The district's anti-truancy program, called SAFE, which stands for Schools and Families Empowered, was funded in part by a federal grant that is now expiring. The good news is that the Northern Kentucky Independent Health District is so impressed with the program that it's stepping in to help fund it.

Walton-Verona's dropout-free record is a noteworthy accomplishment, and is a wonderful example of what small school districts can do when they are forced to make the most of limited resources. I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the outstanding students

and dedicated staff of the Walton-Verona Independent School District on such a remarkable dropout rate.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO TOM G.
ROBERTS

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a solemn heart that I take this opportunity to pay respect to the passing of Tom G. Roberts, who recently passed away at the age of 55. Tom was a pillar of the Hotchkiss, CO, community and as his family mourns his loss, I think it is appropriate to remember Tom and pay tribute to him for his contributions to his community.

Tom was a shining example of a man thoroughly involved in his community. He was a member of the Hotchkiss Community United Methodist Church, the Hotchkiss Elks Lodge No. 1807, the Mt. Lamborn Masonic Lodge No. 102, and Sigma Phi Epsilon. In an effort to serve his community, Tom participated in several civic and business groups, notably the Hotchkiss Library Board, the Hotchkiss Chamber of Commerce, and the Delta County Livestock Association. Tom was a member of the North Fork Snowmobilers Association and was also a member of the Men's League and Mixed League at Valley Lanes, where he spent his free time playing one of his favorite games, bowling.

Tom was well known for his love of outdoor activities, including horseback riding and snowmobiling. As a result of his intimate knowledge of the local forest and his attention to the news, he was often referred to as the "unofficial wildfire reporter". Between his responsibilities as owner of Robert's Short Stop, Tom always loved to visit with residents and tourists visiting the area. Tom loved children, especially his own, and was often seen at the local little league games as a fan and a sponsor. Tom will be remembered as a loving husband, a devoted father, and a friend to all.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to pay tribute to Tom G. Roberts for his contributions to the Hotchkiss community. His dedication to his family, friends, work, and community certainly deserves the recognition of this body of Congress. Although Tom has left us, his good-natured spirit lives on through the lives of those he touched. I would like to extend my thoughts and deepest sympathies to Tom's family and friends during this difficult time.

IN MEMORIAM OF RICHARD
LEONARD DIXON

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in great sadness to honor Richard Leonard Dixon, who passed away yesterday, February 25, 2002. Richard Dixon was a remarkable man who was committed to his community, his country, and above all, his family. He is survived by his wife, Geneva Farris Dixon and his son, Jeff Dixon.

Richard was concerned about southeast Texas and the people who lived there. He was a long time civic and community leader. His impact on the community could be felt everywhere, he was a positive force in southeast Texas.

Richard Dixon attended Lon Morris Jr. College, Wharton Jr. College, graduating from Sam Houston University. A member of the Trinity United Methodist Church, he began his career with the Brazosport Facts, was former State Editor for the Beaumont Enterprise, Assistant Director of Public Information at Lamar University, and finally a member of my staff.

Richard was active in community and church affairs in Beaumont and in Nederland. He was of the utmost character, and his attributes of selflessness and commitment to others are rare gifts that his community was lucky to have. Richard Dixon was a man who served his community with great pride and devotion.

His work was part of the fiber of southeast Texas, and with his passing a great loss will be felt in the spirit and the heart of our community. Richard was a long time friend with a sharp sense of humor and an unbridled spirit. Today, as a Congressman I have lost a trusted member of my staff, but as a person, I have lost a friend.

COMMENDING BRIAN SHIMER,
OLYMPIC BOBSLEDDER OF
NAPLES, FLORIDA

HON. PORTER J. GOSS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute an individual from my district who never gave up. Brian Shimer, of Naples, Florida, came from behind on February 23rd and won a Bronze Medal in the 4-man bobsled competition.

Now Naples, Florida, is not known for its snowfall, but it is known for commitment to community and dedication to principles. It is an amazing feat that Brian Shimer managed to pursue his bobsledding passion for the past 16 years—never giving up and making sure America did not abandon its pursuit of the sport. Five times Brian competed in the Olympic Games, each time, seeking to turn all his years of training and desire into an Olympic medal. He endured injuries, setbacks, and hundredths-of-a-second heartbreaks. Still, Brian kept trying. His teammates changed, the bobsled designs changed and the biological clock ticked toward the ripe old age of 40, but Brian continued toward his dream.

This time in Salt Lake City, Brian Shimer won one of the two Olympic medals awarded to the United States in bobsledding—the first since 1956. In doing so he brought an incredible gift back to the sport he loves, and to his family, friends and all who supported his unquenchable passion. He also made a statement about Americans—that dedication and perseverance to a cause is what makes us strong and our country great. Brian was the one who carried the American flag for the American team during the closing ceremonies for the Olympic Games—a testimony to the respect he has earned among his fellow athletes.

It makes us all proud that Florida Congressional District 14 is the home of an individual who truly emulates the Olympic and American spirit—Congratulations to Olympic Bronze Medal winner, Brian Shimer.

90TH ANNIVERSARY OF HADASSAH

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to take this opportunity to honor the 90th anniversary of one of the Nation's leading organizations, Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, paying special honor to the Greater Pittsburgh Chapter and the Aliquippa, Ohio Valley Group. In the past nine decades, Hadassah has become the largest women and largest Jewish membership organization in the United States with over 300,000 members and 1,500 chapters across the country.

Founded in 1912 by educator Henrietta Szold, Hadassah has been dedicated to pursuing social justice, ensuring Jewish community, promoting a prosperous and peaceful Israel, and providing for the health, education, and well being of American Jewish women and their families. Of the many positive activities and humanitarian missions the members of Hadassah partake, their greatest achievement is their network of world-renowned medical and educational facilities in Israel. Their flagship project, the Hadassah Medical Organization, provides health care of the highest quality to numerous individuals from all areas of the Middle East, without regards to race, religion, or nationality. The Hadassah Medical Organization also provides training for health care professionals from all corners of the world. For 90 years, Hadassah has supported peace and stability in the Middle East.

In addition, the members of the Hadassah Pittsburgh Chapter, and the Aliquippa, Ohio Valley Group have been involved with a number of issues concerning women and the Jewish community in the United States. They have advocated a program for breast cancer detection and awareness, sponsored Jewish family programs, and encouraged civic participation on public policy through their Government Relations Unit. This is included with local support of the Women's Center of Beaver County.

Finally, I would like to congratulate Hadassah and its members within the Greater Pittsburgh Chapter and Aliquippa, Ohio Valley Group for their commitment to helping numerous individuals, and improving the quality of their lives in the Middle East and across America. May they continue to advocate for peace and well being domestically and abroad for another 90 years.

CELEBRATING 90 YEARS OF HADASSAH

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to publicly acknowledge one of the

finest volunteer organizations in America. Founded by Henrietta Szold in 1912, Hadassah has been a shining example of the Jewish commandment, "Tikkun Olam," healing the world.

I am proud to be a longtime, and life member of a group that has been a strong advocate for American-Israeli relations, the Jewish religion and family, civil liberties, and women's health. Over the course of the past nine decades, Hadassah has demonstrated an unsurpassed compassion and zeal for improving the quality of life for Jews, and for all people, everywhere.

Hadassah's best known project is the Hadassah Medical Organization. This world renowned medical complex provides unsurpassed medical care, world class research and professional training for the people of the Middle East. Set in the heart of Jerusalem in Mount Scopus, and in Ein Kerem, the Hadassah Medical Organization has long been a symbol of Jewish values. Built in one of the world's most troubled regions, Hadassah's hospital has consistently provided the highest quality of medical care to all people, regardless of race, religion, or national identity. Hadassah doctors have been the hidden heroes for fallen soldiers, the victims of countless terrorist attacks, and ordinary people, Arab and Jew alike, who seek medical care for their children.

Hadassah is also the sponsor of the Young Judaea program, one of the most impressive Jewish youth organizations in the world. Young Judaea has played a critical role in the development of tens of thousands of American Jewish youth. Located throughout the United States, Young Judaea offers Jewish youngsters an opportunity to interact with other Jewish youth, and learn about their Jewish identity, Zionism, and commitment to their community. In addition to their successful summer camp program, Young Judaea provides outstanding programs for young Americans in Israel. Through Hadassah, Young Judaea has enriched the lives, and broadened the horizons of generations of Jewish youth.

Hadassah's efforts improve the lives of all women, the Jewish community, and all Americans. Their Women's Health Department runs a nationwide "Check It Out" campaign to detect and raise awareness of breast cancer. Hadassah has also played a central role in encouraging women to participate in the political process. Members have lobbied tirelessly on issues including the rights of women, church-state separation, and foreign affairs. Hadassah's 300,000 members are voices heard on every issue, in every state.

As a Jewish woman, Hadassah has been a major force in my life. Membership has prepared me well for public service. For nine decades, Hadassah women have been leaders in our communities, and the inspiration for our nation's Jewish youth. We have a great debt to pay to Henrietta Szold, and the hundreds of thousands of women who have helped make Hadassah the organization it is today.

I congratulate my Hadassah sisters for a job well done, and done well.

CELEBRATING 90 YEARS OF HADASSAH

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the anniversary of Hadassah, the 90th Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc. Hadassah, a women's volunteer organization founded in 1912 by Henrietta Szold, is today the largest women's and largest Jewish membership organization in the United States. With more than 300,000 members, Hadassah seeks to promote the growth and unity of the Jewish community within the United States as well as strengthen its partnership with Israel.

During the past nine decades, Hadassah has been devoted to initiating and supporting health care, education, youth institutions, and land development in Israel. The Hadassah Medical Organization, one of Hadassah's greatest achievements, currently provides the highest standard of health care to individuals throughout the Middle East. In accordance with Hadassah's humanitarian mission and its strong support of a peaceful and secure Middle East, service is provided to individuals regardless of race, religion, or nationality. The Hadassah Medical Organization also serves as an excellent tool for training health care professionals around the world.

In addition to its efforts in Israel, Hadassah has been involved in many issues concerning women and the American Jewish community. The Rachel Szold Henrietta Chapter in Madison, one of Hadassah's earliest chapters, has been very active in the community, providing programs concerning the advocacy of women's issues as well as health issues. In the past, they have held a "Fun and Fitness Day," which is an active health fair with workshops. Last September, Hadassah, along with other local Jewish women's organizations, held a medical education discussion on hereditary cancers in Ashkenazi women. These are just a few of the events that the Madison chapter, and other chapters across the country, have held to benefit women and health.

I wholeheartedly congratulate Hadassah for many years of success as a volunteer organization. I am proud to recognize this organization on its 90th anniversary.

90TH ANNIVERSARY OF HADASSAH

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America on its 90th anniversary and to pay special tribute to the largest Jewish women's membership organization in America.

Hadassah was founded in 1912 by educator and visionary Henrietta Szold. It was her vision and commitment to the ideal of a Jewish homeland and to social justice that led to the creation of Hadassah, an organization dedicated to help heal a Palestine rife with poverty, filth, and disease.

Today, with more than 300,000 members across the United States, Hadassah supports the Hadassah Medical Organization, the most advanced medical center in the Middle East. This medical center is comprised of two hospitals, 90 outpatient clinics, and numerous community health centers. It provides state-of-the-art health care to 600,000 patients a year—regardless of race, religion, or creed. In addition, through the congressionally funded American Schools and Hospitals Abroad Program, the medical center also stands ready to serve American military troops should the need arise.

Hadassah also funds and maintains four major programs in Israel and the United States. They include: Hadassah Israel Education Services, Youth Aliya, Young Judeaea, and the Jewish National Fund. Hadassah also provides relief services during international health crises, including in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Rwanda. In the United States, Hadassah members are engaged in a multitude of activities. From women's health seminars to programs about Jewish traditions and rituals, Hadassah is dedicated to improving the lives of those in our community.

Hadassah's mission is to promote a prosperous and peaceful Israel, ensure Jewish continuity, pursue social justice, and provide for the health, education and well-being of American Jewish women and their families. I hope my colleagues will join me in saluting the spirit of volunteerism and service to community that has marked the 90 years of Hadassah's existence.

IN HONOR OF HADASSAH

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise and honor Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America for their 90th Anniversary. Hadassah is the largest women's and Jewish membership organization in the United States.

Henrietta Szold, the Jewish scholar and activist, who was dedicated to Judaism, Zionism, and the American ideal, founded the organization in February 1912. Her goal was to strengthen their partnership with Israel, ensure Jewish continuity, and realize their potential as a dynamic force in American society. Today, Hadassah's efforts are enhancing the quality of American and Jewish life through its promotion of education, health awareness, and unity.

Hadassah's greatest achievement to date is their network of world-renowned medical and educational institutions in Israel. It provides the highest quality of health care to countless individuals throughout the Middle East, regardless of race, religion or nationality.

Please join me in honoring Hadassah for their continuous efforts in improving the life of Americans as well as the rest of the world.

COMMEMORATING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF HADASSAH

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the 90th anniversary of Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America. This esteemed organization has grown to become the nation's largest woman's and Jewish membership organization. Today, we celebrate Hadassah having dedicated 90 years to pursuing a most worthy humanitarian mission.

It was in 1912 that the educator and visionary Henrietta Szold founded Hadassah. In the time since, it's members have not only been committed to promoting a peaceful and prosperous Israel, ensuring Jewish continuity and pursuing social justice, but also providing for the health, education, and well-being of American Jewish women and their families. This organization has helped build Israel's medical infrastructure from the foundations laid by two American nurses in 1913 through a combination of hard work and professionalism. Today the Hadassah Medical Association supports the region's most advanced medical center, treating 600,000 patients a year from all religious and ethnic backgrounds, and assisting in the training of greatly needed doctors and nurses.

On home soil, Hadassah has also had a historic impact, easing the concerns of women and the Jewish Community. In response to some 43,000 breast cancer deaths each year, Hadassah has joined the battle to diagnose cases early, by running screening and awareness programs. Furthermore, the organization sponsors Jewish family programs across the nation, encourages civic participation and has devoted considerable effort to educating members and the general public alike, on important public policy issues.

Mr. Speaker, for nine decades Hadassah has served communities worldwide improving the lives of women and their families. Now I ask my colleagues to join with me in honoring this organization and its members past and present, for their perseverance and many remarkable accomplishments.

IN HONOR OF HADASSAH'S 90TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, with great pride I rise to praise the work and women of Hadassah on their 90th Anniversary.

Hadassah has been in the forefront of support for women's rights, women's health, and Israel for almost a century, and its impact can be seen in countless ways.

In Israel, Hadassah's hospitals and clinics provide the best medical care in the region to all those who need it. They treat patients without regard to race or religion, from the victims of the worst terrorist attacks in the region to individuals from across the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Here in the United States, Hadassah's work in Los Angeles and across the Nation strengthens our community and our ties to Israel. Hadassah works to ensure access to medical care, prevent genetic discrimination, ensure women's reproductive rights and battle domestic violence. Its education and advocacy campaigns have brought people together in support of issues of vital importance to Jewish women around the world.

Hadassah was founded, as the story goes, on Purim 90 years ago. It took its name from the Hebrew word for Esther, who thwarted a plot to kill all the Jews in Persia. Hadassah has thwarted efforts to harm the needs and interests of the Jewish community ever since, and has reached out to all in need.

Congratulations to Hadassah, and thank you.

IN HONOR OF HADASSAH—THE WOMEN'S ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Hadassah, on the occasion of the organization's 90th anniversary.

In February of 1912, Henrietta Szold founded Hadassah, presently the largest women's and largest Jewish membership organization in the United States. During the past nine decades, thousands of members from throughout the United States have set forth to promote a prosperous and peaceful Israel, ensure Jewish continuity, pursue social justice, and provide for the health, education, and well-being of American Jewish women and their families.

Since the group's humble beginning as a women's study circle, dedicated members have helped Hadassah to become one of the world's leading humanitarian organizations. In Israel, Hadassah's flagship project, the Hadassah Medical Organization, is the most advanced medical center in the region. This state-of-the-art healthcare facility is comprised of two hospitals, 90 outpatient clinics, numerous community health centers, and annually services over 600,000 patients regardless of race, religion, or creed.

The compassion of Hadassah is not only illustrated by their healthcare efforts. Hadassah funds and maintains four major Israeli and American programs—Young Judeaea, Young Aliya, Hadassah Israel Education Services and the Jewish National Fund. Each of these programs strives to support and promote Jewish life for Israelis and Americans of all ages. In addition to these programs, Hadassah is engaged in a wealth of educational, advocacy, training, and community service initiatives both in the U.S. and in Israel.

In honor of more than 300,000 members of Hadassah, I am privileged to pay tribute to their selflessness, incalculable hospitality, and success. Mr. Speaker, I would ask that you and my colleagues of the U.S. House of Representatives join me in congratulating Hadassah and its dedicated members for nine decades of social action and noble work.

TRIBUTE TO HADASSAH

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, on its 90th anniversary. I have enormous professional respect for Hadassah, I also have a deep personal affinity: my mother was a very active member, and some of my other relatives were officers in important Hadassah chapters.

Founded in 1912 by Henrietta Szold, Hadassah has become the largest women's and largest Jewish membership organization in the United States, with over 300,000 active members in all 50 states.

Hadassah's greatest achievement is its network of world-renowned medical and educational institutions in Israel. Their flagship project, the Hadassah Medical Organization, provides the highest quality health care to more than 600,000 patients a year from throughout the Middle East—regardless of race, religion or nationality—and is a resource for training health care professionals around the world. It also supports a variety of world-class research projects that have resulted in significant medical advances, particularly in the areas of breast cancer and the treatment of various genetic disorders. Over the years I have strongly supported the U.S. Agency for International Development's American Schools and Hospitals Abroad program, which provides a key source of funding for Hadassah's health care activities.

In addition to their outstanding work in Israel, Hadassah supports many important health, education and women's initiatives here in the U.S. These include a nationwide breast cancer awareness and detection campaign, Jewish family programs, and efforts to promote greater civic participation and awareness of key public policy issues. Through these activities, Hadassah's devoted volunteers strengthen our partnership with Israel, promote the unity of the Jewish people, and truly change people's lives.

I commend Hadassah for its excellent work over the past ninety years, and look forward to continuing my work with the organization to ensure an even brighter future.

TRIBUTE TO HADASSAH

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 90th anniversary of the founding of Hadassah. With over 300,000 members worldwide, Hadassah is both the largest women's organization and largest Jewish organization in American history.

Founded in 1912 by Jewish scholar and activist Henrietta Szold, Hadassah has evolved as a leading volunteer women's organization, committed to Israel, Jewish continuity and American ideals.

In Israel, the Hadassah Medical Organization in Jerusalem has become a world-renowned center of medical excellence. With

two hospitals, five schools, outpatient clinics, research facilities and a community health center, Hadassah is a lifeline for Israeli families and an important partner with the United States in medical research and training.

Sadly, the deterioration of the situation in the Middle East has also made the Hadassah hospital into the premiere trauma center for the victims of the vicious suicide attacks by Palestinian terrorist groups. Reconstructing bodies and healing wounds, the Hadassah doctors and nurses have saved numerous lives and restored the futures of many youth wounded in these gruesome attacks.

Hadassah's work also extends worldwide, with its nurses and doctors dispatched to work with refugees in Rwanda and to treat victims from the terrorist bomb blast at the Jewish community center in Buenos Aires.

Here in the United States, Hadassah is committed to health awareness for its members and for women and girls in underprivileged communities. Hadassah organizes education and screening for diseases like breast cancer and osteoporosis. It sponsors youth reading programs and mobilizes volunteers on national policy issues like school vouchers, genetic discrimination, and a woman's right to choose.

I am proud that Southern California boasts one of the largest concentrations of Hadassah members with over 20,000 activists in nearly 100 chapters.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Hadassah's 90th anniversary and in congratulating Hadassah on its tremendous impact worldwide.